



DIRECTIVE 2018-017

March 13, 2018

Re: CONSIDERATION OF A REQUEST BY THE UNIVERSITY OF AKRON TO ESTABLISH AN UNDERGRADUATE TUITION GUARANTEE PROGRAM

Section 3345.48 of the Ohio Revised Code authorizes the board of trustees of a state university to establish an undergraduate tuition guarantee program. In establishing the program the board must adopt rules that include all of the following:

1. The number of credit hours required to earn an undergraduate degree in each major;
2. A guarantee that the general and instructional fee for each student in a cohort shall remain constant for four years so long as the student complies with the requirements of the programs;
3. A benchmark by which the board sets annual increases in general and instructional fees. This benchmark and any subsequent benchmark shall be subject to approval by the chancellor;
4. Eligibility requirements for students to participate in the program;
5. Student rights and privileges under the program;
6. Consequences to the university for students unable to complete a degree program within four years, as follows:
 - a. For a student who could not complete the program in four years due to a lack of available classes or space in classes provided by the university, the university shall provide the necessary course or courses for completion to the student free of charge.
 - b. For a student who could not complete the program in four years due to military service or other circumstances beyond a student's control, as determined by the board of trustees, the university shall provide the necessary course or courses for completion to the student at the student's initial cohort rate.
 - c. For a student who did not complete the program in four years for any other reason, as determined by the board of trustees, the university shall provide the necessary course or courses for completion to the student at a rate determined through a method established by the board under division (B)(7) of 3345.48.
7. Guidelines for adjusting a student's annual charges if the student, due to circumstances under the student's control, is unable to complete a degree program within four years;
8. A requirement that the rules adopted be published or posted in the university handbook, course catalog, and web site.

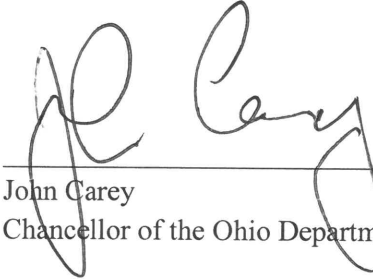
Prior to implementation the University of Akron is required to submit its program and rules to the Chancellor for approval. On December 6, 2017, the board of trustees of the University of Akron adopted

an undergraduate tuition guarantee program and subsequently submitted the attached program to the Chancellor for approval.

Agency staff reviewed the request and posted its recommendations to the ODHE website for purpose of providing a period of public comment before final approval by the Chancellor. No public comments were received.

Based upon my review of staff recommendations and public comments received, I hereby determine the program conforms in principle with the parameters and guidelines of section 3345.48 of the Ohio Revised Code and approve the University of Akron's tuition guarantee program.

This Directive will take immediate effect.



John Carey

Chancellor of the Ohio Department of Higher Education

THE UNIVERSITY OF AKRON

RESOLUTION 12-18 -17

Pertaining to the Establishment of a Tuition Guarantee Program

WHEREAS, The University of Akron (the "University") wishes to adopt The University of Akron Tuition Guarantee Program (the "Program"), which will provide fixed tuition, select fees, and room and board rates for each incoming cohort of full-time, bachelor-degree-seeking undergraduate students for four years of attendance, beginning with the fall 2018 enrollees; and

WHEREAS, The Program will provide students and their families with predictability as they plan for a four-year education; and

WHEREAS, Revised Code Section 3345.48 authorizes the Board of Trustees of The University of Akron (the "Board") to establish an undergraduate Tuition Guarantee Program by adopting rules for the governance of the program that must be submitted to the Chancellor of the Ohio Department of Higher Education for approval; Now, Therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, That the Board adopts the Program for full-time, bachelor-degree-seeking undergraduate students, beginning with students enrolling in fall 2018, including raising by up to six percent (6%) tuition, select fees, room and board, subject to the approval of the Chancellor of the Ohio Department of Higher Education; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board adopts the accompanying rules for the governance of the Program, attached as Exhibit A; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the University is authorized to make future modifications to the Program rules to provide for the effective and efficient administration of the program, subject to compliance with the requirements of Ohio Revised Code Section 3345.48.



M. Celeste Cook, Secretary
Board of Trustees

December 6, 2017

Exhibit A

THE UNIVERSITY OF AKRON TUITION GUARANTEE PROGRAM

A. THE UNIVERSITY OF AKRON GUARANTEE

1. The University of Akron (the “University”) Tuition Guarantee Program (the “Program”) is a Cohort-based, guaranteed undergraduate Tuition program adopted in accordance with Ohio Revised Code §3345.48 (“Cohort” and “Tuition” are defined herein.) The Program provides all Eligible Students (defined herein) and their families the certainty that resident Tuition, Select Fees (defined herein), and Room and Board charges will not increase over the ensuing four academic year period from their enrollment as an Eligible Student in a Cohort. The Program applies to all Eligible Students enrolling at the University’s Main campus. Participation in the Program is required for all Eligible Students admitted at the University in fall semester of 2018 and after.
2. The four academic years of the Program include fall, spring, and summer academic terms and the Cohort Rate is guaranteed for full-time Eligible Students during that time.
3. Undergraduate resident Tuition, Select Fees and Room and Board rates are set by the University’s Board of Trustees each academic year and will be guaranteed for four academic years for each entering Cohort. Tuition for summer terms is charged separately based on the guaranteed Cohort per-credit-hour rate, less any discount that is or may be approved by the Board of Trustees and implemented for summer terms.

B. TERMS

1. Bachelor’s Degree

Bachelor's degree programs do not normally require more than 120 semester credit hours to be completed unless the additional coursework is required to meet professional accreditation or licensing requirements. Students completing degree programs requiring more than 120 hours can request an extension of the guaranteed Cohort period following the procedures outlined in Section K. A complete list of programs and their required credit hours can be viewed at www.uakron.edu/academic_majors/.

2. Cohort

- a. Eligible Students are assigned to a Cohort (group) based on the semester in which the Eligible Student is admitted as a full-time, undergraduate bachelor degree-seeking student. Each academic year contains one fall semester Cohort and one spring semester Cohort.
- b. Any Eligible Student who is registered for classes as of the fifteenth day of the fall or spring term will be assigned to that Cohort year for purposes of determining Undergraduate Tuition, Select Fees, and Room and Board for the four academic years covered by the guaranteed Cohort rate. Each Cohort commences with the first semester of admittance and the rate remains constant for four academic years (e.g., fall 2018 through summer 2022; spring 2019 through fall 2023; etc.).
- c. Eligible Students may complete as many undergraduate degrees, majors, minors, and/or certificates as they choose within their Cohort period.

3. Eligible Students:

- a. First Time Student. A First Time Student is any undergraduate, bachelor degree-seeking student admitted at The University of Akron's Main campus for the first time on or after fall 2018, and who has not been enrolled at any other college, university or postsecondary institution prior to enrollment at the University. First Time Student includes an undergraduate bachelor degree-seeking student who enrolls at the University's Main campus immediately after graduating from high school and non-traditional students who enroll at the University's Main campus for the first time.
- b. Transfer Student. A Transfer Student is any student who enrolls as an undergraduate bachelor degree-seeking student, with eligible credit hours from another college or postsecondary institution. Transfer Students who transfer from another institution prior to fall semester 2018, are not covered by the Program and will be assigned to the University's non-Cohort Tuition schedule. Students transferring from another institution who enroll on or after the fall 2018 semester will receive the Cohort Tuition rate in place at the time of their first semester of enrollment at the University's Main campus.
- c. Eligible Students does not include non-degree-seeking students, College Credit Plus or Advanced High School; exchange students; and other students participating in other pre-enrollment or postsecondary option programs.

4. Returning Students

Returning students enrolled prior to fall semester 2018 are not eligible for the Tuition Guarantee Program.

C. DISSEMINATION

The terms and conditions of the Program, including respective Cohort rates, will be disseminated by the University using various methods including publishing on websites and in student handbooks and course catalogs. Information also will be available through various University offices, such as: University Bursar, University Registrar, Admissions, Enrollment Services, and other student service offices.

D. ADDITIONAL PROVISIONS

1. Summer Term Start

Students whose first enrollment is a summer term will pay the prior Cohort Tuition per credit hour rate for the initial summer term, but will be assigned to, and pay the Tuition, Select Fees, and Room and Board associated with the entering fall semester Cohort that immediately follows. Summer start students are typically students who have confirmed their enrollment and will be matriculating for the first time for the fall semester immediately following the summer term. By being assigned to the following fall semester Cohort, these students will receive the benefit of guaranteed Tuition and other applicable fees for four full years after completing the initial summer term.

2. Students moving from the University's Associate Degree Program or Wayne College Campus to the Main campus.

University students who transfer from the University's Associate Degree Program or Wayne College campus to its Main campus as a full-time bachelor degree-seeking student will be assigned to the lowest unexpired Cohort for the duration of that Cohort. When the assigned Cohort expires, the student automatically will be placed into the Cohort that went into effect the year after their initial assigned Cohort (Cohort +1). The student will remain in that Cohort for up to two years and if still enrolled after that Cohort expires, will be placed into the next Cohort (Cohort +2) for the next year and so on until the student no longer is enrolled (up to the maximum permitted time under the Program.)

3. Re-Enrolling Students

Re-Enrolling Students who were admitted in a degree-seeking program at the University prior to fall 2018 are not covered by the Program and will pay non-Cohort Tuition, Select Fees, other applicable fees, and Room and Board. When an Eligible Student originally assigned to a Cohort seeks to re-enroll after any period of non-attendance and not more than four (4) academic years have elapsed since the Eligible Student's initial degree-seeking enrollment, then the Eligible Student will be assigned to the Eligible Student's original Cohort for the balance of the Cohort period. If four (4) or more academic years have elapsed, then the Re-Enrolling Student is assigned to the oldest unexpired Cohort at the campus to which they are re-enrolling.

4. Non-Degree Students

Students admitted or enrolled as non-degree-seeking students are not covered by the Program and will not be assigned to a Cohort unless the student subsequently enrolls as a full-time undergraduate bachelor degree-seeking student. Non-Degree Students will pay Cohort Tuition, Select Fees, and Room and Board, set annually by the Board of Trustees. Non-Degree Students include those enrolled in College Credit Plus or Advance High School; exchange students, and students participating in pre-enrollment or postsecondary option programs. Once an undergraduate student is admitted as a bachelor degree-seeking student, the student will be assigned to a Cohort based on the semester in which the student first enrolled as a full-time bachelor degree-seeking student.

5. Students enrolled at both Main and Wayne College campuses

Some students take all of their classes during an academic year (fall, spring, or summer) on either the Wayne College campus or the Main campus respectively. However, some students take classes at the Main campus, as well as the University's Wayne College campus or another University location during the same academic term. Students enrolled for credit hours at the Main Campus and at the Wayne College campus or another University location will pay the lower of the Cohort rate or the rate of the other University location for those credit hours taken at that other University location. However, if the credit hours for which the student is enrolled at the Wayne College campus or another University location would be included within the tuition plateau (no additional tuition cost to students for credit hours 12-18), students will not be required to pay for those credit hours.

E. EXCEPTIONS TO STANDARD LENGTH OF COHORT

The Program is for four (4) academic years commencing with either the fall or spring semester. Some students may require additional academic periods beyond four (4) academic years to complete their baccalaureate degree and will continue to attend the University beyond their Cohort period. When certain exceptions are met (as described in Section K of this document), students may extend their guaranteed Cohort Tuition, Select Fees, and Room and Board beyond their guaranteed Cohort period. Students who do not complete their undergraduate degree requirements and are not eligible for an exception (as defined in section K below) by the end of their assigned Cohort term, will be placed into the Cohort that went into effect the year after their assigned Cohort (Cohort +1). The student will remain in that Cohort for up to one year and if still enrolled after that Cohort expires, will be placed into the next Cohort (Cohort +2) for the next year and so on until the student is no longer enrolled (up to the maximum permitted time under the Program.).

F. RATES INCLUDED IN THE PROGRAM

1. For purposes of the Program, Tuition is defined as the fee for instruction charged to all students. Non-resident students also pay a non-resident Tuition surcharge, and international students pay an additional international fee that are not part of the Program guarantee. Full-time students pay additional Tuition at their Cohort rate for over 18 credit hours enrolled per term. Tuition is set each academic year for four academic years for each entering Cohort. Tuition for summer terms is charged separately based on the guaranteed Cohort per credit-hour rate, less any discount that is or may be approved and implemented for summer terms. Eligible Students who reduce their enrollment to part-time status at any time during their enrollment at the University pay Tuition on a pro-rated, per-credit- hour basis at the Cohort rate.
2. Select Fees. For Main campus, these fees include the general service fee and facility fee, technology fee, library fee, career advantage fee, administrative fee, and transportation fee. A complete description of these and other applicable fees can be found at www.uakron.edu/student-accounts/costs/.
3. Under the Program, each incoming undergraduate resident Cohort is charged its unique, guaranteed rate for four academic years. Full-time students pay additional Tuition at their Cohort rate for over 18 credit hours enrolled per term. Tuition is set each academic year for four academic years for each entering Cohort. Tuition for summer terms are charged separately based on the guaranteed Cohort per credit-hour rate, less any discount that is or may be approved and implemented for summer terms. Eligible Students who reduce their enrollment to part-time status at any time during their enrollment at the University pay Tuition on a pro-rated, per-credit- hour basis at their Cohort rate.

G. OTHER STUDENT RATES INCLUDED IN THE PROGRAM

The Program is designed to provide a guarantee of the rate for completing an undergraduate bachelor degree at the University. The following rates also are included in The Program:

1. Housing Rates (Room)

The Program includes a guaranteed rate schedule for housing that represents the various housing options available to undergraduate students. The rate charged to the Eligible Student is based upon the student's selected or assigned residence type and location. If a student changes from one room or hall type to another during the Cohort period, the housing rate charged to the Eligible Student will be adjusted based on the guaranteed rate schedule that is in effect throughout the Eligible Student's Cohort period. Student requests to reside in on-campus housing beyond the second year are subject to room availability. If space is available for an Eligible Student who already has met the residency requirement, the established Cohort rate schedule for student rooms continues throughout the period covered by the guaranteed Cohort rate.

2. Meal Plan Rates (Board)

The Program includes a number of meal plan options from which the Eligible Student may choose, depending on whether the Eligible Student resides on- or off- campus. A meal plan is required for students residing in university housing. A Cohort menu of meal plans and rates is included as part of the Cohort rate, and the actual meal plan rate will be based on the meal plan selected by the Eligible Student. While the meal plan rate will remain guaranteed during the Cohort period, individual meal items and merchandise in retail locations are subject to rate changes. The menu of meal plan options and rates will be set for each new Cohort consistent with the contractual obligations between the University and its third party service provider.

H. OTHER STUDENT RATES NOT INCLUDED IN THE PROGRAM

Only undergraduate Tuition, Select Fees, and Room and Board charges are included in the Program guarantee. All other charges including but not limited to undergraduate non-resident surcharge, international fee, specific course and service fees, program fees, student health insurance, textbooks, charges and fines incurred by students (such as late fees) and graduate and professional Tuition and fees are not included.

I. COHORT RATES BEYOND THE INITIAL YEAR

1. Once the initial Cohort Tuition is established, subsequent Cohort increases in Tuition will be based on:
 - a. The average rate of inflation, as measured by the consumer price index prepared by the Bureau of Labor Statistics of the United States Department of Labor (all urban consumers, all items), for the previous sixty-month period; and
 - b. The percentage amount the Ohio General Assembly restrains increases on in-state undergraduate instructional and general fees for the applicable fiscal year. If the General Assembly does not enact a limit on the increase of in-state undergraduate instructional and general fees, then no limit shall apply under this section for the Cohort that first enrolls in any academic year for which the General Assembly does not prescribe a limit.
 - c. This rate of increase will be benchmarked against peer four-year residential research institutions' four-year rolling cost averages to account for the impact of the Cohort pricing model on Tuition changes. If the Program falls significantly below these institutions, the University may elect to submit for approval by the Chancellor of the Department of Higher Education an increase in the forthcoming Cohort Tuition pricing in excess of the stated limitation for Ohio residents.
2. Increases in Cohort rate for Room and Board charges are not subject to the rates' formula set forth above and the plan composition and rates will be determined by The University's Board of Trustees.

J. STUDENTS WHO WITHDRAW AND RE-ENROLL

If a student takes a leave, withdraws, or is judicially suspended from the University for one or more academic semesters, the four (4) academic year period covered by the guaranteed Cohort rate will not be extended. As a result, the student will lose the term(s) of eligibility while absent within the four (4) academic year Cohort period. When the student re-enrolls, if four (4) academic years have not lapsed since the student's initial degree-seeking enrollment, then the student will be charged the guaranteed rate based on their original Cohort for the balance of the Cohort period. If four (4) or more academic years have passed, then the re-enrolling student is assigned to the oldest unexpired Cohort (as defined in section K).

K. EXCEPTIONS FOR STUDENTS WHO REQUIRE MORE THAN THEIR COHORT PERIOD TO GRADUATE

Some students will take longer than their guaranteed Cohort period to graduate due to extenuating circumstances.

1. Students enrolled in degree programs that require more than 120 hours to complete, as determined by the University, will receive, an automatic extension of the Cohort period for one additional year to provide the time necessary to complete the degree program. Students requiring further time to graduate beyond the one additional year are required to follow the appeal process detailed in this Section K.
2. No later than one semester prior to the expiration of their guaranteed Cohort term, a student may request an extension of their guaranteed Cohort rate. Each case will be evaluated on its own merits to determine whether an extension should be granted and, if so, the nature and duration of any extension.
3. A Program Appeals Committee (the “Appeals Committee”) administered by the University Registrar, will evaluate requests for exceptions. The appeal must fall within extenuating circumstances established by the Appeals Committee as described below.
 - a. If the Appeals Committee finds that the student cannot complete the degree program within the four (4) academic years of the student's Cohort due solely to a lack of available mandatory or required courses or space in required or mandatory classes provided by the University, the University will provide the student with an opportunity to take the necessary course or courses without requiring the payment of Tuition.
 - b. Other circumstances will be considered for an extension of the guaranteed Cohort rate beyond the four (4) academic years depending on the validity and impact of the circumstances including:
 - i. Enrollment in a degree program requiring more than 120 hours to graduate
 - ii. Illness or Injury of the student
 - iii. Disability that necessitates a reduced course load as a reasonable accommodation
 - iv. Medical Leave of Absence
 - v. Victim of Interpersonal Violence or Crime while enrolled

- c. If the Appeals Committee determines that the student has provided sufficient documentation of extenuating circumstances that were outside the control of the student and prevented the student from completing the student's program of study during the assigned Cohort period, the Committee will determine the appropriate period of time or number of courses to extend the guaranteed Cohort rate.
- d. Any student who takes longer than their guaranteed Cohort period to graduate due to service in the United States Armed Services will be given an automatic extension of their guaranteed Cohort rate based upon the number of academic terms impacted by the student's military service absence.



**Department of
Higher Education**

John R. Kasich, Governor
John Carey, Chancellor

TUITION GUARANTEE REQUEST FOR APPROVAL

The following request has been posted for a 2-week public comment period and is recommended for approval. No public comments were received.

Recommenders: *Amy Shaffer* March 13, 2018

University of Akron

- UA has submitted a tuition guarantee program to be implemented beginning academic year 2018-2019. The rules are attached.

Comments received:

None