

Testimony of David R. Hopkins, President, Wright State University

Senate Finance Subcommittee on Higher Education

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1. Importance of Higher Education.
 - a. Thank you for past support.
 - b. Understanding the importance of investing in higher education.
 - Higher incomes for those with college degrees and far more available jobs (p 9, IUC)
 - More productive citizens who are engaged in their communities
 - Improves the quality of life in our state
 - c. Ohio's colleges and universities must play a vital role in driving economic activity in our state and in creating economic opportunity for our citizens.
 - By 2020, Ohio will create 500,000 new jobs, and 40 percent will require postsecondary education, according to the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services.
 - But only 54 percent of Ohio's population will have the education attainment needed for those jobs, according to the Georgetown Center on Education and the Workforce.

2. Let's discuss the role of Higher Education. We are moving in the Right Direction in Ohio:
 - a. COST--Tuition restraint over the last ten years.
 - IUC has provided the numbers, and they show-I believe-that we have done our part in keeping costs down and in producing many more Ohio graduates
 - b. OUTPUT--19% more graduations over the last four years.
 - (p21, IUC)

3. Function of the University.
 - a. Quality and value should not be sacrificed.
 - b. Affordability and access – mission and role (discuss “traditional” student)
 - We welcome students from all walks of life
 - Meeting the needs of 21st century students—a new model for higher education
 - First-generation college students
 - Adult students from the workforce
 - Transfer students
 - Veterans
 - Students with disabilities
 - The more relevant institutions in the 21st century will be value-added institutions that focus on “inclusion” of all students to reach the finish line.
 - Ohio's comeback story has to include getting more of its people to the finish line.

- c. Working hard to reduce costs, save money, and pass that savings on to students by operating more efficiently.
 - WSU specific examples--2014 Efficiency Advisory Committee Report--pages 18, 22 (project will be considered by Controlling Board on May 18) and 23.
 4. The Budget Bill.
 - a. State Share of Instruction.
 - Only five other states in the nation rank lower than Ohio.
 - Current Appropriation – 2% increase in both fiscal years
 - IUC request – 2.5% in FY16 and 5% in FY17
 - Additional investment supported publicly by the Senate President (p 14, IUC).
 - b. Tuition Caps.
 - The four-year public university sector in Ohio has the slowest rate of tuition GROWTH than does any other sector in any other state in the nation. (p 9, IUC)
 - According to the College Board’s Annual Survey of Colleges, Ohio is the national leader in restraining GROWTH of tuition and fees.
 - Ohio has had the slowest rate of increase over the last 10 years – from 2004-2005 to 2014-2015 – and is the only state in the nation where tuition and fees are below the rate of 10 years ago when adjusted for inflation.
 - Current version – For FY16: 2% or \$200, whichever is higher, for main university campuses. 2% or \$100, whichever is higher, for regional campuses. No increase permitted in FY17.
 - IUC request – With no additional appropriation, no lower than 2.5% per year.
 - c. Ohio College Opportunity Grant (p 26, IUC)
 - Current version – The House removed the agreed to 2:1 ration for the distribution of awards to public and private university students. This reduces the amount of the award to public university students by almost \$100 compared to the Sub Bill amount.
 - IUC request – Maintain the House funding levels (a \$10 million increase over the executive proposal) and restore the 2:1 funding ratio.
 - d. Other provisions that may specifically relate to WSU.
5. Thank you for the continued support and consideration of the IUC requests.