

**AGENDA ITEM B4: ACCESS TO HIGHER EDUCATION**

*BOARD RULE 400.0000.00*

*TUITION AND FEE COMPARISONS*

*BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING: JANUARY 23, 2014*

This report compares tuition and fees for 23 community colleges in Ohio and one in West Virginia. The table shows *annualized* tuition and fees data for full-time resident students in the most recent two years. Tuition and fee totals in this report have been *annualized* which means that tuition and fees for 15 term hours and the fees charged to all full-time resident students on a per term basis have been totaled and multiplied by two (for semesters) or by 3 (for quarters) to produce an *annualized* total. This method for calculating annualized tuition and fees is prescribed by the Ohio Board of Regents and the totals are reported in the *Fall 2013 Survey of Student Charges*. Tuition and fee rates for West Virginia Northern Community College students were calculated from the institution's website.

Table I, *Annualized tuition and fees, full-time residents in community colleges 2013 to 2014*

<b>COMMUNITY COLLEGES</b>	<b>2013</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>Change 2013 to 2014</b>	
Belmont College	\$ 4,310	\$ 4,310	0%	\$ -
Central Ohio Technical College	\$ 4,200	\$ 4,296	2.3%	\$ 96
Cincinnati State Technical and CC	\$ 4,523	\$ 4,618	2.1%	\$ 95
Clark State Community College	\$ 3,998	\$ 4,095	2.4%	\$ 98
Columbus State Community College	\$ 3,679	\$ 3,978	8.1%	\$ 299
Cuyahoga Community College*	\$ 2,936	\$ 3,036	3.4%	\$ 100
Eastern Gateway Community College*	\$ 3,150	\$ 3,240	2.9%	\$ 90
Edison State Community College	\$ 4,019	\$ 4,150	3.3%	\$ 131
Hocking College	\$ 4,191	\$ 4,290	2.4%	\$ 99
James A. Rhodes State College	\$ 4,613	\$ 4,706	2.0%	\$ 93
Lakeland Community College*	\$ 3,116	\$ 3,217	3.3%	\$ 102
Lorain County Community College*	\$ 2,876	\$ 2,977	3.5%	\$ 101
Marion Technical College	\$ 4,182	\$ 4,282	2.4%	\$ 100
North Central State College	\$ 4,290	\$ 4,389	2.3%	\$ 99
Northwest State Community College	\$ 4,520	\$ 4,620	2.2%	\$ 100
Owens State Community College	\$ 4,109	\$ 4,209	2.4%	\$ 100
Rio Grande Community College*	\$ 3,930	\$ 3,984	1.4%	\$ 54
Sinclair Community College*	\$ 2,771	\$ 2,872	3.6%	\$ 101
Southern State Community College	\$ 4,032	\$ 4,132	2.5%	\$ 100
Stark State College of Technology	\$ 4,410	\$ 4,509	2.2%	\$ 99
Terra State Community College	\$ 4,243	\$ 4,364	2.8%	\$ 121
Washington State Community College	\$ 4,140	\$ 4,240	2.4%	\$ 100
West Virginia Northern Community College	\$ 2,646	\$ 2,790	5.4%	\$ 144
Zane State College	\$ 4,416	\$ 4,506	2.0%	\$ 90

In Table I, *Annualized tuition and fees, full-time residents in community colleges 2013 to 2014* there are four columns of data. The first column, labeled *2013*, shows annualized tuition and fees for the prior academic year. The second column, *2014*, shows annualized tuition and fees for the current year. The third and fourth columns, *Change 2013 to 2014*, show the percent and dollar values for increases in tuition and fees from last year to this year. The six community colleges that have levy support are marked with an asterisk in Table I.

### **Data Highlights**

1. Among the community colleges, annualized tuition and fees at seven community colleges are higher than tuition and fees at Belmont. These institutions include Terra State Community College, North Central State Community College, Zane State Community College, Stark State Community College, Cincinnati State and Technical Community College, Northwest State Community College, and James A. Rhodes State College.
2. The highest annualized tuition and fees among the 23 institutions are at James A. Rhodes State College (\$4,706); the lowest are at West Virginia Northern Community College (\$2,790).
3. Across the 23 community colleges, the highest increase by percent was at Columbus State Community College with an 8.1% increase. The increase at Columbus State reflects mid-year increases for each of the last two years. Belmont College is the only institution without an increase in annualized tuition and fees for 2014.
4. The average dollar increase for the 23 institutions was \$105. The average percent increase was 3%.

### **Conclusions and Targets for Improvement**

While it is admirable that Belmont did not enact a tuition increase this year, the overall situation in higher education of how students will fund their college education is daunting, because financial aid is down in the state of Ohio. “The total budget for need-based aid in Ohio peaked in 2008 at \$183 million, while the 2013 budget is just \$ 86 million.” (Wallace, Lewis. *Got Debt? Ohio College Students Are Banking On It*. wyso.org. 12/4/13). Budget cuts are responsible for most of this change. The Pell Grant funding unfortunately is outpaced by the tuition increases and cost of living.

In Ohio, Community Colleges have been excluded from state need-based grants since 2010, when the Ohio Instructional Grant (OIG) and the Ohio College Opportunity Grant (OCOG) were stopped. At that time the OACC conducted a study that verified community college students are increasingly turning to loans. “About 68% of Ohio graduates leave college with debt averaging around \$29,000, which makes Ohio one of the worst states for student debt.” ([www.nerdwallet.com/blog/nerdscholar/2013/student-debt-best-worst-states/](http://www.nerdwallet.com/blog/nerdscholar/2013/student-debt-best-worst-states/)).

That said, a number of variables and conclusions might be kept in mind for future decision-making at Belmont:

1. Approximately 92% of first-time full-time degree seeking students in 2012 received some form of financial aid. About 81% of all Belmont students in 2012 received grants or scholarship aid. (Source: IPEDS Data Feedback Report 2013) This means that most students at Belmont are affected by financial aid. Therefore, any increases in tuition should ideally coincide or align with Pell Grant awards. In other words, it would benefit

students if tuition, fees, and book costs did not exceed the maximum Pell Grant award amount. It would be prudent to compare any change in the tuition and fee amount to the maximum Pell Grant amount for a gap analysis.

2. Currently students can go to full-time status and get tuition, fees, and books covered by the maximum Pell Grant amount if they are eligible. The college might consider moving toward financial aid awards focused on completion and encouraging more students to take a minimum of 15 credit hours per semester. This would enable students to stay on sequence and complete sooner.
3. In Fall 2012, 1,652 students were enrolled at Belmont. Of those students, there were 1,462 students who completed a FAFSA. For those students, the average unmet Financial Need was \$1,735. Unmet Financial Need was determined by taking the student's estimated financial aid budget, subtracting the FAFSA-determined Expected Family Contribution, and finally subtracting the awarded financial aid. Of the 1,462 students who completed the FAFSA, 572 were determined to have no unmet financial need.
4. In the 2013 financial aid award year, Belmont awarded \$459,609 in institutional, endowment and/or private financial aid to 312 students. Awards made to Trustees Scholars represented 83% of all institutional aid. In that year, \$382,253 was awarded to 227 students who were Trustee Scholars, which is an average award of \$1,684. Any increase in tuition will necessarily have an effect on Trustees Scholarship awards, as these dollars match the tuition cost (but not the fees) for recipients. Any increase in tuition, therefore, will trigger an increased unmet need if institutional awards do not equal tuition increases. It is recommended that the decision to increase tuition take into consideration all student financial aid consequences that effect completion and retention.
5. The trend chart below represents Belmont tuition revenue per FTE over the last ten years. In 2004, annualized tuition revenue per FTE was \$2,360.59. Over the ten-year period, tuition revenue per FTE has increased to \$3,081.77. This is an increase of 30.6%, or \$721.18 per FTE in the ten-year period. Continued further financial analysis of tuition revenue per FTE is recommended to determine if federal funding is outpaced by tuition at Belmont.

*Tuition revenue per FTE, 10-year trend*

