

## II. Regional Higher Education

### **Sources of Income Under House Bill 94 passed by the Ohio House and Senate—Reduction of Access Challenge**

Instructional subsidy and student tuition will continue to be the primary sources of income for Regional Higher Education in 2001-2002.

For the past several years the Ohio Board of Regents' Access Challenge program provided additional funding that required either reducing or holding tuition at current levels for students enrolled in general studies courses. These are typically courses offered at the freshman and sophomore levels (students with 96 or fewer earned credit hours). Last year, Access Challenge funding required a 5% tuition decrease for students enrolled in general studies courses. Under House Bill 94, Ohio University's regional campuses will experience a 5.7% reduction in Access Challenge funding.

Since House Bill 94 provides no state support to reduce or maintain flat tuition, regional campuses are requesting a 7% increase in tuition at the undergraduate level and an 8% increase in tuition at the graduate level.

### **General Operating Expenses Under House Bill 94—An 8.73 % Increase**

General operating expenditures in Regional Higher Education will increase 8.73% in FY 2002. Expenditure increases will range from .48% to 8.67% on campuses and equal 19.71% in the Office of the Vice President and 39.45% for centrally paid items such as university overhead, technology infrastructure, program support, operation of compressed video and microwave systems, profit-sharing with campuses, and targeted system-wide initiatives. Expense increases on campuses are linked to enrollment and income growth and are needed for increases in salaries, purchased utilities, new building costs, new faculty positions, supplies and equipment, including postage, to support academic and support programs, and new programming initiatives. Increases in the Office of the Vice President are for a professional staff position and a clerical support position to support academic programming.

### **Restricted Expenses—9.5% Increase**

Additional expenditures in restricted accounts are estimated to increase by 9.5%. Increases in grant income secured from the Ohio Department of Education, the Ohio Department of Human Services, the Ohio Board of Regents, and several federal agencies account for this projected increase in restricted expenditures.

### **Incentive-Based Budgeting, Enrollment Increases, and New Program Development**

Last year regional campuses began incentive-based budgeting. Under this new campus-based incentive system, each campus is encouraged to develop successful, self-supporting programming initiatives within its service area. This new budgeting approach appears to be having an impact. Campus enrollments have increased in Fall, Winter, and Spring Quarters in Academic year 2000-2001. In addition, new programs have been developed, including an organizational communication degree program and a multi-media technology program.

### **New Campus Leadership**

As of July 1, 2001, four of the five regional campuses will have deans with three or fewer years of service at their campuses. Deans will be working with the Vice President and his office over the summer to develop system-wide strategies on meeting Regional Higher Education's mission of access and outreach, especially in southeast Ohio.

### **Outreach and Access: The Regional Higher Education Philosophy**

The philosophy of regional higher education is to provide access by reaching out students of all walks through programming on regional campuses, through distance learning, and through other high-quality traditional and non-traditional methods. The Vice President for Regional Higher Education has initiated a campaign to communicate the mission of access and outreach more clearly by creating a consistent image for regional campuses and Lifelong Learning. This initiative is currently operational and will impact all new publication materials, business correspondence and web sites. All materials are being developed with consistent logos and publication and media guidelines. The first Regional Higher Education Annual Report has been completed and is now available.

### **The Pickerington Center**

Last year, the Office of Regional Higher Education in cooperation with the Lancaster Campus and the University Planning Office contracted to lease space that was under development in Pickerington, Ohio to serve residents of northern Fairfield County and the East side of Columbus. In Fall Quarter, 2000, fourteen classes were offered enrolling 214 students. In Winter Quarter, 2001, sixteen courses were offered enrolling 278 students. Plans are under way to offer time- and place-specific masters degrees in social studies and public administration beginning Fall, 2001, and journalism beginning Winter, 2002. Expansion of programming at Pickerington is planned in areas of credit course offerings and programs as well as government and business and industry training.

### **Regional Higher Education: An Academic Unit**

Beginning in Fall, 2000, Regional Higher Education became a degree-granting entity. All Applied associate degrees offered on the regional campuses that were once offered through University College are now offered through Regional Higher Education. A coordinator of academic programming development has been hired to coordinate academic programming and to centralize record-keeping and academic policies. The Regional Higher Education Curriculum Council has been established to oversee curriculum matters related to applied science associate degrees offered on regional campuses. This council is comprised primarily of faculty and reports its decisions to the University Curriculum Council for final review and approval.