

Tuesday, March 14, 2017

Sara Molski  
Assistant Policy Director  
Ohio Department of Higher Education  
25 South Front Street  
Columbus, OH 43215

Dear Sara,

Thank you for your work on making higher education more affordable to the students at public universities in Ohio. We appreciate your leadership and efforts to control the rising costs of college tuition for Ohio students through your work on the development of a guidance document/template for the Affordability and Efficiency reports that each of our institutions will be submitting to the Ohio Department of Higher Education.

In October of last year, the Ohio Faculty Council published an op-ed piece ([https://www.ohiohighered.org/sites/ohiohighered.org/files/uploads/ofc/docs/OFC\\_Affordability-Efficiency\\_Oct2016.pdf](https://www.ohiohighered.org/sites/ohiohighered.org/files/uploads/ofc/docs/OFC_Affordability-Efficiency_Oct2016.pdf)) in several newspapers in Ohio that drew attention to the fact that the Affordability and Efficiency reports for 2016 went into great detail about a wide range of cost saving measures but that attention to “quality” was noticeably absent. We questioned whether the delivery of a high quality education to our students would continue to be our single highest priority. We also suggested that the template for the 2017 Affordability and Efficiency reports make it a point to assess the quality of education with new metrics that look directly at the value-added to 21<sup>st</sup> century students. Specifically, for Section2 (Academic Practices; perhaps in a new section titled “Quality of Education Delivered”):

- Ratio of full-time to part-time faculty (and if the institution has not determined what an optimum ratio should be why they have not);
- Ratio of tenure-track to non-tenure eligible faculty (and if the institution has not determined what an optimum ratio should be why they have not);
- Course completion and graduation rates (calculated separately for students within four-point windows of incoming ACT scores and also for non-traditional/continuing education students);
- Fraction of graduates going on to graduate/professional school (and what mechanism is in place or being developed to track this information); and
- Fraction of graduates with experiential learning (e.g. internships, service learning, research, study abroad) as part of their degree program.

We also recommend that the template for the 2017 Affordability and Efficiency reports be modified in one additional way: each institution's calculated mmBtu per square foot [a standard measure of energy usage/efficiency described in a guidance document from the Ohio Board of Regents ([https://www.ohio.edu/pacsp/documents/ou\\_plan\\_hb\\_251.pdf](https://www.ohio.edu/pacsp/documents/ou_plan_hb_251.pdf)) that all institutions have been calculating in response to 2007's House Bill 251] for each of the past five years should be included in Administrative Cost Reforms, Recommendation 5.

Thank you again for your important work in making college education in Ohio efficient and affordable. Employers and society in general should expect that college graduates are engaged employees and citizens with well-developed problem solving skills.

Please let me know if you have any questions about these recommendations from the Ohio Faculty Council about how the template for the 2017 Affordability and Efficiency reports can also capture information about how well our public institutions are delivering on their primary goal of providing a high-quality education that genuinely prepares our citizens to meet the pressing economic and cultural needs of our state today and tomorrow.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Dan E. Krane". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "D" and "K".

Dan E. Krane, Chair  
Ohio Faculty Council