

**Testimony Regarding Faculty Workloads and Higher Education Student
Financial Aid Workgroup
May 13, 2014**

Ohio Senate Finance Committee
Senator Scott Oelslager, Chair

Dr. Dan E. Krane,
Faculty President, Wright State University
Chair, Ohio Faculty Council

Chair Oelslager, Vice Chair Coley, Ranking Member Sawyer and members of the Ohio Senate Finance Committee, my name is Dan Krane and I am a professor of Biological Sciences and president of the faculty at Wright State University. I also have the honor of serving as the chair of the Ohio Faculty Council which represents the faculty at all of the four-year public universities in the State of Ohio. Thank you for the opportunity to share with you the position of the Ohio Faculty Council regarding HB 484 (pertaining to faculty workloads) and Section 7 of the mid-biennium review bill (which creates a Higher Education Student Financial Aid Workgroup).

The Ohio Faculty Council unanimously passed a resolution (attached) at its April 2014 meeting that expressed deep concern regarding an arbitrary increase in aggregate faculty workload by ten percent in the combined areas of instruction, advising and research in the absence of the determination of specific strategic needs and/or advantages to such an increase. We applaud the bipartisan work done by members of the House Higher Education Subcommittee that removed this increase in faculty workload from the House-passed version of HB 484.

The same April 2014 resolution of the Ohio Faculty Council also specifically recommends “that faculty participate in the development of workload policies and changes from the initial stage of development through implementation and that faculty have the ability to evaluate the effects of implementation.” The Ohio

Faculty Council is uniquely qualified and positioned to represent faculty at the public four-year universities in Ohio and to assist the Chancellor and the Ohio Board of Regents in the development and evaluation of faculty workload policies.

At our May 2014 meeting the members of the Ohio Faculty Council discussed the creation of a Higher Education Student Financial Aid Workgroup in section 7 of the legislation. Members of the Ohio Faculty Council are committed to the proposition that public universities in Ohio affordably deliver high quality education that meets the needs of our students and of the State. Discussions regarding student financial aid must necessarily include an evaluation of how public universities expend their resources. Faculty have a unique and invaluable perspective regarding how public universities can best serve our students. We ask that a representative of the Ohio Faculty Council is explicitly included in the proposed Higher Education Student Financial Aid Workgroup.

Thank you Chair Oelslager for the opportunity to bring these matters to the attention of the Senate Finance Committee.