



JOHN R. KASICH
GOVERNOR
STATE OF OHIO

Executive Order 2015-01K

Establishing the Ohio Task Force on Affordability and Efficiency in Higher Education

WHEREAS, Ohio's future economic growth depends upon a well-educated workforce and college graduates; and

WHEREAS, national figures show that the costs to students and their parents associated with higher education have increased substantially over the last 35 years, rising several times higher than the general rate of inflation over the same period of time; and

WHEREAS, the substantial rise in higher education tuition prices has led to a similar rise in student loan debt. In 2013, outstanding student loan debt nationally was well over \$1 trillion, surpassing—for the first time ever—the amount of outstanding credit card debt (then \$857 billion); and

WHEREAS, increasing operational efficiency in our state-sponsored institutions of higher education can lower their costs of providing post-secondary instruction, which in turn should help them provide an even higher quality of education at a more affordable cost to Ohioans;

NOW THEREFORE, I, John R. Kasich, Governor of the State of Ohio, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and the laws of the State of Ohio, do hereby order and direct that:

1. The Ohio Task Force on Affordability and Efficiency in Higher Education (the "Task Force") is hereby established to review and recommend ways in which state-sponsored institutions of higher education, including four-year universities and two-year community colleges, can be more efficient, offering an education of equal or higher quality while at the same time decreasing their costs. This can be done only if institutions of higher education become more efficient and productive in the use of their assets, personnel and resources. The Task Force shall provide me with a report with recommendations regarding how our state institutions of higher education can operate more productively and efficiently, so that, over the long term, tuition prices remain affordable.

2. In conducting its review and developing its report with recommendations, the Task Force shall examine the following areas:
 - a. Administrative staffing levels, bureaucracy and related costs;
 - b. Teaching loads for professors not significantly involved in research;
 - c. Organization of departments, with a view toward ways to reduce overhead;
 - d. Space utilization, including space for commercializing innovations that derive from research;
 - e. Opportunities for shared services, energy savings, shared procurement opportunities and other cost-saving efficiencies;
 - f. Low-enrollment and low-performing programs and courses at the graduate and undergraduate levels;
 - g. Asset utilization and opportunities for monetization;
 - h. Other potential sources of revenue that do not result in increased cost for students, such as affinity agreements, commercialization opportunities and intellectual property auctions;
 - i. Standard course requirements for degree completion;
 - j. Use of technology to reduce cost for students; and
 - k. Best practices for Ohio's community colleges that are located within the same regional campus as a university.

3. The Task Force shall be comprised of nine members, five members to be appointed by the Governor, two to be appointed by the Speaker of the Ohio House of Representatives, one representative from each party, and two to be appointed by the President of the Ohio Senate, one senator from each party. The Governor shall designate the Chairperson of the Task Force from among the appointed members.

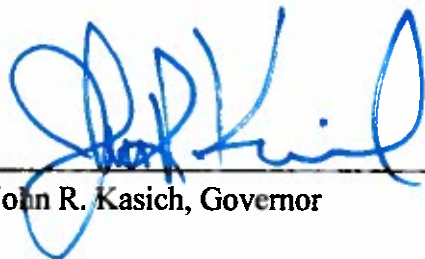
4. Staff support and resources necessary for the Task Force to fulfill its obligations as outlined in this Executive Order shall be provided through the Ohio Board of Regents (Ohio Department of Higher Education). This shall include space to gather and consider information necessary for developing the recommendations and report called for in this Order. The Chairperson and members of the Task Force shall serve without compensation for their work on the Task Force, but may be reimbursed for their reasonable and necessary travel expenses in the conduct of Task Force business.

5. In gathering information to prepare its report, the Task Force shall engage presidents and members of boards of trustees of state-sponsored institutions of higher education for their perspectives on the topics listed above, and may seek advice and input from such other persons or entities as the Task Force finds helpful to its work as outlined in this Order.

6. The Task Force shall assemble as often as its members deem necessary to facilitate timely completion of the report with recommendations in the areas specified by this Order. The Task Force shall submit its report to the Governor and the General Assembly by October 1, 2015. The report with recommendations shall be shared with presidents and boards of trustees of state-sponsored institutions of higher education.

I signed this Executive Order on February 10, 2015, in Columbus, Ohio, and it will expire upon the submission of the Task Force's report and recommendations pursuant to this order.





John R. Kasich, Governor

ATTEST:

Jon Husted, Secretary of State