

Advanced math

Leaders of Ohio's public universities and colleges are right to be alarmed about cuts in state aid to higher education. They confront pressure to restrain tuition increases and limit student debt, amid rising costs and scarce resources.

But Gov. John Kasich is equally correct to seek a revised funding formula in the next state budget that would address the operating needs and academic performance of all 37 colleges and universities, rather than merely reward the political clout of some in the Statehouse. Hearteningly, the institutions' presidents agree.

The governor and higher-education leaders met in Columbus last week to discuss ways to improve the aid formula; the presidents pledge to submit recommendations by Thanksgiving. This effort builds upon a similar initiative last year aimed at achieving greater cooperation on, and rationalization of, capital spending by public colleges and universities. The latter collaboration is saving money, curbing wasteful duplication, and setting helpful budget priorities.

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<http://www.toledoblade.com/Editorials/2012/09/16/Advanced-math.print>

THE PLAIN DEALER

Saturday, September 15, 2012

Factor graduation rate into Ohio's decisions on college support: editorial

By the Plain Dealer Editorial Board

Ohio Gov. John Kasich seems to be on to something. Instead of determining a new state funding formula for Ohio's 37 public colleges and universities, his administration is handing the job over to the experts: the college presidents.

Their draft report is due by Thanksgiving.

The approach reprises a good idea that worked well last winter when several presidents, led by Ohio State University's E. Gordon Gee, worked out how to distribute \$350 million in state funds for capital improvements.

Gee, and a committee of eight other presidents, now must tackle the thorny challenge of divvying up a two-year state subsidy estimated at \$2.5 billion starting in fiscal 2014.

The rub: Kasich wants them to do it according to new criteria, including graduation rates, shared services and other metrics.

With college costs rising and a better educated work force essential to the state's economy, the old way of distributing the money by course and degree completion does not go far enough.

READ FULL EDITORIAL HERE:

http://blog.cleveland.com/opinion_impact/print.html?entry=/2012/09/factor_graduation_rate_into_oh.html



The Valley's Homepage

Sunday, September 16, 2012

State funding for higher ed will be a collaborative effort

Ohio Gov. John Kasich, who has launched various initiatives to make state government more cost-effective and efficient, has come up with a new system for funding the state's public colleges and universities that will either treat all fairly, or result in winners and losers.

For the sake of Youngstown State University, an open admission, urban institution that caters to students who often are the first to pursue higher education in their families, we hope fairness rules the day.

We do take comfort in the fact that this collaborative system of divvying up state dollars for colleges and universities was used with great success earlier this year for construction projects at the 37 public institutions.

While no entity got everything it wanted, none was left out in the cold. Of the \$350 million to be spent over the next two years, \$13.46 million will be coming to YSU, Eastern Gateway Community College, Kent State University at Trumbull, Kent State at Salem and Northeast Ohio Medical University.

YSU, which decided to focus on projects that deal with maintaining current buildings, rather than building new, was approved for \$9.4 million.

The key to the success of the capital projects initiative was the guiding principles established by the special commission that was formed by Kasich. The governor tapped Dr. Gordon Gee, president of Ohio State University, to lead the commission — a move that was well received by the higher education community. Gee showed great finesse in dealing with all the university and college presidents who were used to the turf wars of the past.

Gee's leadership so impressed the governor that he has chosen Ohio State's president to lead the statewide collaboration of the 37 institutions in determining the formula for allocating the \$1.5 billion that will be available in the 2014 biennium.

READ FULL EDITORIAL HERE:

<http://www.vindy.com/news/2012/sep/16/state-funding-for-higher-ed-will-be-a-co/?print>