

## Appendix I



**BOB TAFT**  
GOVERNOR  
STATE OF OHIO

To: Presidents of Two- and Four-Year Colleges  
From: Governor Bob Taft *Bob Taft*  
Re: *Tuition Increases*  
Date: November 16, 2004

I was concerned to read recently that the board of trustees for at least one state institution of higher education is considering a proposal to increase tuition and fees by nine percent next summer, citing a possible flat state budget for higher education, or even cuts, as a main reason for an increase.

It is certainly true that the state will face a very difficult budget for the next biennium for a number of reasons. Nevertheless, I would like to make you and your trustees aware of the fact that any action you take now to increase tuition and fees that raise college costs in the coming biennium is likely to be taken into consideration by me, as Governor, and the members of the Ohio General Assembly as I prepare the budget for submission early next year, and as legislators subsequently consider that budget.

The Commission on Higher Education and the Economy recommended that we seek to increase enrollment by 30 percent over the next 10 years, a goal that I have embraced. To attain that goal we must all work to keep tuition and fees as affordable as possible. The Commission has also called for the state's higher education community to expand and intensify efforts to implement strategies for improving efficiency and productivity, and I would hope that each president and board of trustees would undertake such efforts prior to enacting new tuition increases.

I do not want to raise any false expectations about the next budget. However, I believe you and your board should be aware of the potential impact that tuition decisions may have on policymakers in Columbus.

Thank you for your consideration of this important matter.