

Board of Regents Update | June 17, 2016

Dear Colleagues,

The Board of Regents meeting on Thursday included several items of deep importance to our campus community. First and foremost, the Regents approved our Fiscal Year 2017 budget, which goes into effect July 1. This budget reflects our institutional commitment to invest in academic excellence and student success while also ensuring fiscal responsibility. This year's general fund budget is \$114,728,300 — less than 1 percent more than the current year's budget of \$114,125,700.

Academic initiatives recommended by the University Budget Committee and approved by the Regents total nearly \$600,000 and include additional academic advisors, enhanced library services, support for tutors, supplemental instruction and disability services, and funding for the Center for Educator Preparation.

The University of Michigan-Flint will remain one of the most affordable options in Michigan even with our tuition increase, which will cost an incoming full-time freshman student an additional \$213 per semester. We also continue to offer the most affordable housing among Michigan's public universities with room rates staying the same for most students.

The budget includes a state appropriation of \$22,549,300, a 3.4 percent increase over the current year. The university also will receive an additional 0.2 percent in state incentive funding because our tuition and fee increase is less than the state-directed tuition cap of 4.2 percent.

This budget includes an 8.3 percent increase in financial aid, which is in addition the previous budget's 16 percent increase. This funding is part of our commitment to accessibility and improving retention to help more of our students achieve their University of Michigan degree.

During my report to the Regents, I also highlighted the work done by our campus to expand the Early Childhood Education Center into the Flint Community Schools, which is offering our top-ranked preschool education free of charge to Flint families. Our partnership is seeking additional funding that would allow for us to expand to serve 250 children from birth to kindergarten. Our ECDC also recently was recognized by famed glass artist Dale Chihuly for its chandelier created out of water bottles. It was a lesson in colors for toddlers at the ECDC that became a beautiful piece of art. Congratulations!

Additionally, I took a moment to recognize the leadership being shown by our campus. Our student Pride organization and the Ellen Bommarito LGBTQ Center hosted a candlelight vigil on Monday for the victims of the Orlando, Fla., shootings. I am grateful they provided this space for our campus and entire community to gather and remember those lost. Today, I am even more aware of the work you do to build an environment of acceptance and inclusion on our campus.

Also of note, the Regents approved the splitting of the Department of Communication and Visual Arts into the Department of Communication Studies and the Department of Art and Art History, as recommended by the College of Arts and Sciences. This move gives each department greater clarity and focus around mission and enhances their ability to recruit faculty and deliver innovative new graduate and undergraduate programs. I appreciate the leadership shown within the college faculty and administration to make this recommendation.

If you wish to view the full agenda from Thursday's meeting, you can [find it here](#). Thank you!

Best and GO BLUE!

Sue