

OCPA GOVERNMENT RELATIONS REPORT
AUGUST 31, 2001
SUBMITTED BY: AMY LAHMERS

RECENT ISSUES IN THE NEWS:

Ohio Budget

(August 31, 2001) *The Chronicle of Higher Education*

- Higher education will receive \$2.6-billion for 2001-2, a 1.2-percent decrease. In the second year of the biennium, the colleges will receive only \$24-million more than in 2001-2, less than a 1-percent. To help Ohio's public universities deal with reduced state subsidies and rising expenses, the General Assembly agreed to lift its restrictions on tuition rates that had limited annual increases to 6 percent since the mid-1980's. Despite the change, not all of the state's universities took advantage of the new freedom. Colleges that had set their tuition levels by August 2001 reported increases of 5 to 10 percent.

Early Returns from 2000 Census

(August 2001) <http://www.ohio.com/specials/2001/census/>

- Ohio Lags in College Grads; Education is More Costly in Ohio; Women Have Less Earning Power in Ohio and Earn Less Degrees in Ohio than Across the US

Affirmative Action

(July 6, 2001) *The Chronicle of Higher Education Almanac 2001-02*

- President Bush announced last week that he had picked Gerald A. Reynolds, who has sharply criticized affirmative action in college admissions, as his nominee to become assistant secretary of education for civil rights.

Who Pays the Costs to Help Students with Disabilities?

(July 6, 2001) *The Chronicle of Higher Education*, Section: Government and Politics, Page: A19

- Three years after a federal law required them to work out their differences, public colleges and state vocational-rehabilitation agencies are still struggling to reach agreements on who should pay for costly services for students with disabilities. Ohio is among the few states that have reached an agreement that both sides embrace. Higher-education and rehabilitation-agency officials there have a better relationship than those in many other states, and the talks were further aided by the presence of a single public-college coordinating board to represent those institutions. The plan, approved in March after two years of talks, calls on each college and nearby rehabilitation office to forge their own arrangements for sharing the costs of accommodating students who are agency clients. In some regions, the parties are agreeing to negotiate payments on a case-by-case basis, while some are setting formulas and others are splitting the costs over time, with the college paying for certain accommodations in one quarter and the rehabilitation office paying for them the next. The state also had a committee in place that became a natural liaison between the two sides during talks. The panel, which had been established by the rehabilitation commission years earlier to develop training programs for college and state employees who serve disabled students, included several college officials.

Ohio State University Not Liable for Death of Graduate Student

(March 23, 2001) *The Chronicle of Higher Education*, Front Page; (July 27, 2001) *The Chronicle of Higher Education*, Section: Research and Publishing, Page: A12.

- A state judge found Ohio State not liable in March 2001 in the death of a graduate student who had become ill on a research expedition in the Himalayas. The parents of Shawn Wright brought a \$21-million wrongful-death lawsuit against the university in 1999, charging that Ohio State lacked adequate safety plans for its research expeditions and had delayed and bungled the evacuation of their son. Ohio State officials say that they did nothing wrong, but nonetheless the university revised its procedures and has an insurance policy that will cover emergency medical evacuations from remote locations.

HANDOUT, "LEGISLATIVE PROATIVISM AND STUDENT AFFAIRS,"

by John Wesley Lowery

QUESTIONS:

- How much interaction should OCPA have with Ohio legislators?
- What "government/policy" issues in particular is OCPA interested in?
- What suggestions do you have for me for the coming year?
- What would be helpful to you as members of the OCPA Board and what would be helpful for the general membership?
- Other comments?

REQUEST FROM OCPA CONFERENCE PLANNING COMMITTEE

A/V EQUIPMENT NEEDED:

- 2 VCRs
- 2 TV Monitors
- 5 Screens
- 3 Overhead Projectors
- 7 Easels

If you can supply any of this from your institution on October 11-12, please contact Ryan Poirier at 614-292-3930, Poirier.14@osu.edu or Amy Lahmers at 614-292-7156, Lahmers.8@osu.edu by Friday, September 14.