

**CITY OF GROVE CITY, OHIO
HIGHER EDUCATION INVESTMENT COMMITTEE
MINUTES**

September 10, 2015

Regular Meeting

The regular meeting of the Higher Education Investment Committee was called to order by Chair Hampson at 3:00 p.m., in the City Hall Council Caucus room, 4035 Broadway. Roll was called and the following members were present:

Marjorie Brant

John Hampson

Colin Hopkins

Bill Wise

Ex-Officio members: Council President Berry, Stephen Smith and Tami Kelly were present.

Mr. Holt was absent.

1. The Minutes from the previous meeting were handed out and will be approved at the next meeting.
2. Before getting started with Agenda items, Ms. Brant said she had some questions. Chair Hampson recognized Ms. Brant who stated that she had looked over the material that Mr. Walters handed out and wanted an explanation for a discrepancy that exists in the information. She said the Educational Comparison shows 28.5% have Bachelor's or higher degrees; and the Community Survey states that we have 48%. Mr. Berry commented that one is based off Census data while the other is Survey data. The survey is only as good as the day it was taken and there is a "lie factor" with phone surveys. He said the survey will show you a trend. Ms. Brant asked what other evidence we have the shows "brain drain". Mr. Berry said Brain Drain is different. Brain Drain is a term for college age persons who are not moving in or staying in Grove City. He said we haven't tracked that through the Survey. He did note that we do show single-family homes, which are consistently growing.

Ms. Brant then asked questions about the Committee itself. She said it appears that the ordinance has charged the Committee with administration duties. She believes this includes oversight of the program. If she is correct, what personal liability does each Committee Member have? Mr. Smith, Dir. of Law, said they have very little to none – so long as they are acting within the scope of the ordinance. He said Chapter 2744 of the Ohio Revised Code covers the Committee and indemnifies them. He said the City also has insurance coverage. In addition, while the Committee may oversee the program, they have resources of City Employees to assist them. She asked if the Committee had an ongoing obligation to report to Council. Mr. Berry said any changes in the Program and any appropriation of funds must go before Council for approval. She asked what governs the procedures for the Committee. Roberts Rules of Order are the governing rules/procedures, unless overridden by the Ordinance or those Rules the Committee may adopt. She asked if ex-officio members had a vote, and it was determined that they do not, per the ordinance.

Ms. Brant stated that words are important to her and she is concerned with called this program a Scholarship program. She said it appears to be a reimbursable loan or grant program to her, but not a scholarship. She noted that in her experience, often a scholarship does not have a repayment obligation.. She said she also needed to have a better sense of what this program is designed to be so she can move forward with designing program parameters to fulfill the objective. Many of the other Committee Members expressed a different viewpoint. Mr. Smith stated that the word Scholarship is the broad term that covers a whole host of grants, loans, scholarships, etc. All agreed that the recipient must be made aware of what the restrictions and obligations are with this program and what will travel with it. Mr. Hampson commented that Dr. Wise made a comment at the last meeting that he thought was helpful. It was: *The goal is to strengthen the community in enrolling in higher*

education. If this is kept in mind, it may assist them as they move forward. Dr. Wise commented that he believes the ordinance outlines the Committees duties and if they desire any adjustments from that ordinance, they are to be submitted to Council to make those changes.

President Berry commented that they may want to decide not to attempt to recover any monies due, if the terms of the grant are not met and to simply not allow any new applications from that individual. Mr. Smith said the Code requires him to go after any monies due to the City.

Discussion continued over what to call the Program. Dr. Wise said the legislation says it is a Scholarship program. He said as they continue to build the program, they can suggest to Council that it be named a grant instead. *The Committee agreed to continue with this in mind.*

3. Chair Hampson moved to the next Agenda item: Amount of potential scholarship.

Ms. Brant noted that the legislation says "up to \$1,000.00 per semester". She asked what the basis is for the amount. Would it be based on credit hours; can the money be used for tuition, books, etc.?

Chair Hampson said he believes it should be able to be used for all, not just tuition. He noted that if the colleges are going to administer the grant monies, they may not oblige if there are too many restrictions.

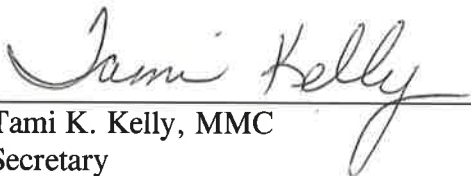
Dr. Wise asked if there was anything on a Bursar's Bill that the Committee felt should not be permissible. Committee members felt any items on a Bursar's bill would be acceptable.

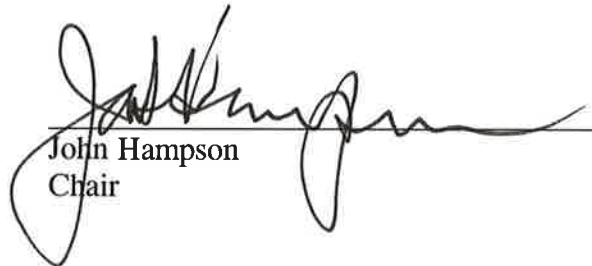
Discussion took place over the amounts to be awarded and if it is to be negotiated every year. Chair Hampson feels it needs to be flexible. Dr. Wise said their program has a fixed annual amount and is divided by the number of applicants. *It was decided that if this Program is a per semester grant, the applications should be applied for each semester.*

Ms. Brant asked how residency would be confirmed. She suggested voter registration. There was a question if that would be a problem. Mr. Smith said he would check into it.

4. Chair Hampson handed out a draft of the Application Form. The Committee reviewed it and made suggestions for adjustments. Chair Hampson said he would make adjustments and resubmit it to the Committee.
5. Mr. Smith said he found Scholarship Programs in the Ohio Revised Code and would send it out to the Committee.
6. Ms. Brant said of a goal of the Program is to prime the pump, why not give the money to colleges to locate here. President Berry said that is the second part of the Program, listed in the legislation.
7. A suggestion of having RITA verify residency was also given.
8. A motion was made to adjourn and was approved by unanimous consent.

The meeting adjourned at 5:00 p.m.


Tami K. Kelly, MMC
Secretary


John Hampson
Chair

Initial Proposal of the Higher Education Committee for Implementation of the Grant Program

A group of schools of higher education came together through the efforts of Don Walters in 2008 to form the Consortium for Higher Education for schools to locate and offer course work in the city of Grove City. The school that agreed to this plan were:

**Columbus State Community College
University of Toledo
Ashland University
Otterbein University
Ohio Christian University
Mount Vernon University
Tiffin University**

Three of these institutions of higher education are currently offering courses within the city of Grove City. They are Columbus State Community College (here after referred to as CSCC), Mount Vernon University, and Ohio Christian University. In 2008 the agreement established by the Consortium Schools was that the city would offer scholarships/grants to institutions of higher education accredited by the North Central Accreditation Association of Colleges and Schools. North Central is a nationally recognized accrediting corporation.

In 2015 the City Council and the city of Grove City appointed a committee of residents to serve in developing a scholarship/grant application and establishing guidelines regarding the administration of the program.

The members of the committee are:

**Marjorie Brant: representing the Grove City Chamber of Commerce
John Hampson: council appointment
Colin Hopkins: council appointment
Randy Holt: mayoral appointment
Bill Wise: South Western City Schools**

Ex-Officio Members:

**Ted Berry: President of Council
Richard L. Stage: Mayor**

Assistants:

**Tami Kelly: Clerk of Council
Stephen J. Smith: Director of Law
Donald Walters**

After hours of discussion and analysis the committee would like to propose the following to City Council for consideration. First, an Interim Program for initial implementation and following that an approach to full implementation.

Initial Implementation

Included in this proposal is a copy of the application (please see the attached).

Currently there are three institutions of higher education accredited by the North Central Association offering classes in Grove City: CSCC, Mount Vernon Nazarene University and the Ohio Christian University. Also Harrison College has a brick and mortar building located in Grove City. Harrison College is not accredited by North Central but is recognized by the national Accrediting Council for Independent Colleges and Schools and regulated by the Ohio Board of Regents under the Ohio State Board of Career Colleges and Schools. The recommendation of the committee is that Grove City residents attending any of these institutions should be granted awards by the City.

The amount of the award would be \$1,000.00 per semester per full time student (minimum of 12 credit hours) and \$400.00 per student per semester for part-time students (minimum of 6 credit hours). Up to \$100,000.00 would be allocated in the first semester of implementation. An additional \$100,000.00 would be in place in the second semester with \$50,000.00 allocated to the third (summer) semester. If money was not totally utilized in any one semester it would be carried over to the next.

Requirements for the recipients would include the following:

- * 10 hours of community service to the City of Grove City per semester in either the VIP program or the "Keep Grove City Beautiful" program or three years of residency in the city of Grove City upon diploma completion
- * Proof of residency in the city limits
- * Bursars statement before cash is awarded to the institution for disbursement
- * Signing of a Promissory Note to guarantee repayment if the above criteria is not met

After the first semester students applying for additional monies require another application and a transcript of courses completed in the previous semester. This process will be repeated by those desiring money every semester thereafter.

Full Implementation

A brick and mortar investment in a learning center located in Grove City is written into the initial legislation. This would be an ultimate goal for the city.

Other recommendation that would enhance the program:

- * a renewal of the consortium agreement with the initial schools of higher education and inviting other schools that may have an interest to participate.**
- * yearly reviews of the programs successes, needs for change and a general evaluation.**

To Be Determined:

- 1. Program advertisement and distribution**
- 2. Proper title of the program (i.e. Grant, Scholarship, Forgivable Loan)**
- 3. Administration of the program and oversight**