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February 25, 2008

Mr. Brad Cowgill
President
Council on Postsecondary Education
1024 Capital Center Drive
Suite 320
Frankfort, KY 40601-8204

Dear President Cowgill:

UofL will be unable to attend the February 26th meeting to discuss affordability. However, I did want to be sure that you had relevant information on our scholarship programs.

Our scholarship programs have always included a significant portion of need-based aid – some from federal and state sources--and in recent years, a growing amount from institutional resources. Comparing 2007-08 figures with those from 2006-07, our merit-based aid increased by $89,991. Our need-based aid increased by $1,812,059 – with nearly $634,000 of that increase coming directly from institutional sources.

Some of those funds are set aside to help current students who cannot afford to stay in school due to tuition increases. We've allocated over $200,000 for special scholarships that cover the difference between current year costs and costs to return the next year due to increased tuition. Students have to be in good standing and show demonstrated need.

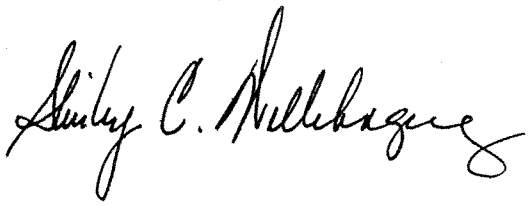
Much of the rest of the increase in the funds we allocate is attributable to the success of our Cardinal Covenant Program, which allows any qualified student whose family income is at or below 150% of the federal poverty level to attend UofL with all direct costs paid. This includes full-time tuition, room and board, and an allowance to cover the average cost of books. This year, the first year of the program, 110 students received $401,879 in university need-based aid (we had budgeted only $250,000, but admitted anyone who was academically qualified). Another 59 students were eligible for the program based on family income, but already had enough direct aid from other sources that university funds were not needed to cover their costs. However, in addition to covering costs, the Cardinal Covenant program also provides additional advising and instructional support, so we include 169 students in the cohort. Should the other sources

of funds some students are receiving not be recurring, we will cover those costs so that they can stay in school.

Over 90% of these high-risk students returned for spring semester. As we support this cohort and bring in another group of first year students, our costs for this program will increase substantially. We are budgeting over $1M to cover the costs of the program next year.

The response to the Cardinal Covenant program has been overwhelmingly positive. If you need more information, please let me know.

Sincerely,



Shirley C. Willihnganz
Executive Vice President
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cc: James Ramsey
Mike Curtin