

INTRODUCTION

This report has been prepared for the James Madison University community by the Office of Institutional Research. The material presented herein is a continuation of similar reports prepared by OIR since 1990 for the Board of Visitors. Most of the data update tables, charts and graphs from these previous reports. The emphasis on continuity is purposeful. It is intended to provide consistent, annual reporting that concentrates on building a longitudinal database that can be used for trend analysis.

The purpose of this report is to identify and describe significant national, regional and state factors affecting the financing of higher education. Trends affecting tuition and fees, state appropriations and expenditure are analyzed in separate sections of the report.

Some highlights of this year's report include the following data from the 2007 and 2008 fiscal years:

- Concerns over rising costs of attending colleges and universities have heightened in the past few years and have influenced in-state policies regarding tuition and fees.
- Among the state's fifteen four-year colleges and universities, JMU's in-state tuition ranks 13th highest, required fees ranks 4th, and room and board ranks 6th. Total in-state tuition, required fees, and room and board ranks 7th and JMU's out-of-state total cost ranks 8th.
- Nationally, the majority of states have experienced dramatically decreased revenues – combined with significant pressures to fund a variety of critical initiatives. One result of this difficult combination of factors has been a decline in state appropriations going to higher education.
- During the period of 1982-83 through 2006-07, Virginia ranked near the top in tuition and required fees among Four-year 3 institutions in the Southern Region Education Board (SREB) states. During this same time period, state general fund operating appropriations per FTE student in Virginia ranked near the bottom among similar institutions in SREB states. In 2006-07 Virginia ranked 11th out of 14 states.
- Virginia institutions have more resources for operations now than they had 15 years ago, but this increase was generated from tuition revenue from students and parents, not from state support. This trend has been demonstrated through the funding received by JMU in recent years.
- Between 2006-07 and 2007-08 \$14.8 million in additional funds were allocated by the Commonwealth of Virginia to offset the increased tuition for students with financial needs.
- JMU's financial resources remain highly concentrated on instruction, JMU's core business.
- In terms of faculty salaries, JMU's current position is 18th out of 25 of its new national peer institutions. .
- Appropriated salary percentage increases for faculty and classified staff have exceeded the CPI in five out of the last six fiscal years. Benefits as a percentage of total compensation have increased by more than 10 percentage points since 1996-97.