

## “Cracking the Nut,” Part 3



It may simply have been a coincidence, but the day on which President Hopkins announced that the university would no longer be hosting the first presidential debate, the *Chronicle of Higher Education* released its annual data on the taxable compensation received by public university presidents in the U.S.

On the list simply indicating total taxable compensation, Dr. Hopkins ranked 10<sup>th</sup>. These are the top 25:

Renu Khator University of Houston	\$1,300,000
Michael R. Gottfredson University of Oregon	\$1,215,142
Michael K. Young Texas A&M University at College Station	\$1,133,333
William H. McRaven University of Texas system	\$1,090,909
Mark P. Becker Georgia State University	\$1,051,204
Lou Anna K. Simon Michigan State University	\$850,000
Patrick T. Harker University of Delaware	\$841,187
Steven Leath Iowa State University	\$820,461
Elson S. Floyd Washington State University	\$805,880
David R. Hopkins Wright State University	\$803,320
Eric J. Barron Pennsylvania State University at University Park	\$800,000
Michael V. Drake Ohio State University	\$800,000
James P. Clements Clemson University	\$775,160
Mark S. Schlissel University of Michigan at Ann Arbor	\$772,500
Robert E. Witt University of Alabama system	\$765,000
Robert A. Easter University of Illinois system	\$763,915

E. Gordon Gee West Virginia University	\$763,175
John C. Hitt University of Central Florida	\$748,830
Robert L. Barchi Rutgers University at New Brunswick	\$742,509
Timothy Michael Wolfe University of Missouri system	\$734,083
Stuart R. Bell University of Alabama at Tuscaloosa	\$730,000
Robert L. Caret University of Massachusetts system	\$702,818
Michael M. Crow Arizona State University	\$701,200
Judy L. Genshaft University of South Florida	\$692,650
Samuel L. Stanley Jr. Stony Brook University	\$690,640

On the list ranking the compensation of the public university presidents by the number of full-time students at their institutions whose tuition is required to pay their compensation, Dr. Hopkins also ranked 10<sup>th</sup>:

Renu Khator University of Houston	151.1
Michael R. Gottfredson University of Oregon	122.5
Mark P. Becker Georgia State University	122
John C. Hitt University of Central Florida	117.6
Michael K. Young Texas A&M University at College Station	117
E. Gordon Gee West Virginia University	109.7
Judy L. Genshaft University of South Florida	108.1
Steven Leath Iowa State University	106.1
Richard C. McGinity University of Wyoming	94.6
David R. Hopkins Wright State University	92
Mark B. Rosenberg Florida International University	84.7
John W. Kelly Florida Atlantic University	82.8
Samuel L. Stanley Jr. Stony Brook University	81.9
Stan L. Albrecht Utah State University	81.5
W. Kent Fuchs University of Florida	80
Michael V. Drake Ohio State University	79.7

David W. Pershing University of Utah	76.8
Ray Watts University of Alabama at Birmingham	74.8
Stuart R. Bell University of Alabama at Tuscaloosa	74.3
Satish K. Tripathi University at Buffalo	74.1
Elmira Mangum Florida A&M University	73.5
J. Bernard Machen University of Florida	72.4
Ricardo Romo University of Texas at San Antonio	71.2
Michael M. Crow Arizona State University	69.2
Ronald M. Berkman Cleveland State University	68.9

And on the list ranking the compensation of the public university presidents by the percentage of their institutional budgets required to pay their compensation, Dr. Hopkins ranked 11<sup>th</sup> (the dollar amount is the amount that their compensation represents out of every million dollars in the institutional budget):

Quentin Wheeler State University of New York College of Environmental Science and Forestry	\$3,350
Thomas J. Elzey South Carolina State University	\$3,160
Mickey L. Burnim Bowie State University	\$3,159
Robert A. Altenkirch University of Alabama at Huntsville	\$2,806
Carine M. Feyten Texas Woman's University	\$2,513
Leslie K. Guice Louisiana Tech University	\$2,173
John M. Rudley Texas Southern University	\$2,161
Ronald M. Berkman Cleveland State University	\$2,155
Dan R. Jones Texas A&M University at Commerce	\$2,093
David Wilson Morgan State University	\$2,078
David R. Hopkins Wright State University	\$2,069
Kenneth R. Evans Lamar University	\$2,038
Joel S. Bloom New Jersey Institute of Technology	\$1,977
Peter J. Fos University of New Orleans	\$1,952
John E. Christensen University of Nebraska at Omaha	\$1,863
Judith A. Bense University of West Florida	\$1,863

James W. Abbott University of South Dakota	\$1,851
Myles W. Scoggins Colorado School of Mines	\$1,847
Flavius Killebrew Texas A&M University at Corpus Christi	\$1,800
Cheryl Bunnett Schrader Missouri University of Science and Technology	\$1,766
Steven H. Tallant Texas A&M University at Kingsville	\$1,718
Glenda Baskin Glover Tennessee State University	\$1,703
Arthur C. Vailas Idaho State University	\$1,673
Mark P. Becker Georgia State University	\$1,652
Thomas F. George University of Missouri at St. Louis	\$1,552

Over the past several years, I have done a series of posts on the compensation of the presidents of Ohio's public universities. In most years, those presidents have all ranked among the top 100 in the nation, and I have asked rhetorically what other rankings, of any kind, include all of Ohio's public universities. I could ask something comparable with respect to the lists in this communication, but I am fairly certain that someone would counter that Dr. Hopkins' compensation is in no way responsible for the current budget issues that his administration is attempting to address.

Perhaps. But there is a "trickle down" effect on salaries, in particular among the top tiers of university administration. In some later communications, we will focus more pointedly on that effect. But I will close this communication simply by pointing out that the state measures (see chart below) administrative overhead against course completions, and degree completions, administrative/student headcounts, and administrative/total expenditures, the results very much contradict the administrative assurances that we have addressed administrative bloat more effectively than many of the other public universities in Ohio.

Now, it is possible to rationalize our poor ranking on the first two measures by pointing to our being an “open-admissions” institution, but that does not explain our poor ranking on the third and fourth measures.

ADMINISTRATIVE PRODUCTIVITY MEASURE (APM)

Institution	A Administrative Salary Expenditure	B Administrative Employee Headcount	C All Employee Headcount	D Educational and General Expenditure	E Student Course Completed FTE	F Student Degree Completions	Productivity		Efficiency	
							E/B	F/B	B/C	A/D
							Overall			
Akron	\$58,189,883	946	2,383	\$335,560,378	18,165	5,347	19.20	5.65	39.7%	17.3%
Bowling Green	\$58,901,566	1,001	2,080	\$279,094,285	13,356	4,118	13.34	4.11	48.1%	21.1%
Cincinnati	\$163,678,260	2,727	5,867	\$679,827,909	26,224	9,758	9.62	3.58	46.5%	24.1%
Cleveland State	\$49,351,850	768	1,540	\$224,953,687	11,210	3,965	14.60	5.16	49.8%	21.9%
Central State	\$8,720,507	157	347	\$36,998,226	869	282	5.53	1.80	45.2%	23.6%
Kent State	\$109,057,716	1,860	3,970	\$495,776,649	25,756	8,306	13.84	4.46	46.9%	22.0%
Miami	\$76,576,483	1,986	3,604	\$384,522,001	14,366	5,149	10.52	3.77	37.9%	19.9%
Ohio State	\$535,575,333	8,416	15,486	\$1,605,105,384	41,913	15,621	4.98	1.86	54.3%	33.4%
Ohio	\$103,734,620	1,714	3,669	\$516,934,601	23,863	8,903	13.92	5.20	46.7%	20.1%
Shawnee State	\$8,527,957	156	359	\$47,195,744	3,131	742	20.11	4.77	43.4%	18.1%
Toledo	\$72,206,632	993	2,998	\$391,352,163	13,805	4,705	13.91	4.74	33.1%	18.5%
Wright State	\$76,701,496	1,215	2,389	\$276,066,431	11,403	3,708	9.39	3.05	50.9%	27.8%
Youngstown State	\$33,375,713	574	1,107	\$136,481,413	8,267	2,198	14.40	3.83	51.9%	24.5%

NEDMED is excluded from the analysis due to the effect(s) of their consortium-based relationships with other Ohio public institutions of higher education on the data elements utilized in the calculation.

OHIO DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION



**Author: martinkich**

I am a Professor of English at Wright State University, where I have been a faculty member for almost 25 years. I serve as the president of the WSU chapter of AAUP, which now includes two bargaining units, as the vice-president of the Ohio Conference of AAUP, and as a member of the executive committee of AAUP's Collective Bargaining Congress. As co-chair of the Ohio Conference's Communication Committee, I began to do much more overtly political writing during the campaign to repeal Ohio's Senate Bill 5, which would have eliminated the right of faculty to be unionized. [View all posts by martinkich](#)



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## 3 thoughts on ““Cracking the Nut,” Part 3”

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Amit Sheth

September 2, 2016 at 2:42 pm

I have nothing to comment or add on the compensation issue, but you brought up the ranking issue. Our national ranking is non-existent (“ranking not published”) but engineering ranking of 137 is not terrible in

<http://colleges.usnews.rankingsandreviews.com/best-colleges/wright-state-9168>

. Ranking here is also nothing to crow about:

<http://www.forbes.com/colleges/wright-state-university-main-campus/> .

However, there are parts of our university that do world-class and highly ranked research. For example, see <http://j.mp/Kimpact> (with linked to ranking in one area of technology, World Wide Web). Perhaps highlighting similar areas (islands?) of excellence could help us improve our perception and presence in some way.

 Like



martinkich

September 2, 2016 at 4:55 pm

I think that everyone acknowledges that quite a few of our programs have been regionally and nationally recognized and have brought very positive attention to the university. The rankings presented at the end of this post are something quite different, having to do with the fiscal management and priorities of the institution, though they do certainly do impact the ultimate quality of the programs that we offer.

That said, we have received a few complaints that we are contributing to the negative press that the university has been receiving. Over the last two years,

however, as the revelations attracting the negative press have accumulated, I have had many opportunities to comment in the press, and I have chosen for the most part to be restrained in what I have said—in large part because so much is still unresolved and ambiguous about the various investigations and the budget issues.

But now that we are speaking out more aggressively, because we believe that the administration is focusing on making the largest budget reductions in the wrong places, we think that the question should be not whether we ought to be contributing to the negative press that the university has been receiving but, instead, when the university is going to start addressing those issues with more genuine transparency and a more balanced sense of our institutional priorities.

 Like

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**Erik Banks**

September 4, 2016 at 3:44 pm

Thank you for this series of articles. Thanks to you and your colleagues we are finally getting some information on this crisis of insane administrative overspending at WSU. I don't think Hopkins is a bad guy but clearly he was asleep at the wheel to allow this to happen.

 Like