

breaking: WHAT TO EXPECT: Accumulating snow, ice with weekend winter storm



Students on campus at Wright State University.

Wright State says it will avoid fiscal watch but state won't verify status until 2019

Oct 16, 2018

By

Max Filby, Staff Writer

FAIRBORN —

Wright State University is set to avoid fiscal watch, the school's chief business officer told the campus in an email this morning.

The state measures every public college's fiscal health with something called a "Senate Bill 6 score," an annual rating of 0 to 5.

Half the score is based on the school's reserve fund, essentially how much cash the school has in the bank. The other two factors include a viability score which calculates the university's ability to service its debts and an income ratio which measures the school's change in net assets, according to the FY 2018 WSU budget.

» **RELATED: WSU won't rebound from budget crisis for 'more than 20 years,' report says**

Any school that falls below a 1.75 two years in a row is put on notice.

Wright State projected its score for fiscal year 2017 was a .8, meaning one more year below a 1.75 would put the school on fiscal watch. The school is now projecting its score for FY 2018 will be a 2.2, chief business officer Walt Branson said in a Tuesday campus-wide email.

The state of Ohio will not announce the school's official score until the spring of 2019 though, Branson said. Wright State generated a \$10-million surplus last year, which Branson said was due to the sacrifices made by many on campus.



Download the Dayton Daily News app

Get the latest Dayton news you want, when you want, in this free app from the Dayton Daily News. Click a link below to get the app.

"In my opinion we have stopped the financial free-fall of previous years, a significant feat in and of itself, Branson said in his email. "However, we have



not yet re-established a solid financial foundation. It will likely take several years before we fully accomplish that.”



Some of that \$10 million will go toward budget shortfalls that have already occurred this fall though. Fall enrollment was under projections which translated to tuition and fee revenue coming in \$2.5 million under budget for fiscal year 2019, which started July 1.

» **NEWS: Dayton VA rated worst in Ohio, shows ‘trivial’ improvement since 2017**

The email comes just days after a report was made public that stated Wright State would not fully regain the financial position it had in 2012 for more than 20 years from now. The report was submitted to a fact-finder as part of ongoing contract negotiations with the university faculty union.

The report was created by the university administration to make a case for its stance on contract negotiations.

The administration has offered faculty a three-year contract with no raises and reduced health benefits, said Martin Kich, president of the Wright State chapter of the Association of American University Professors. A final fact-finder’s report on negotiations is due out at the end of October and the faculty union has threatened to strike if a deal is not reached.

In his Tuesday email, Branson pushed back on the news from the report, saying that it was created before the end of the fiscal year on June 30.

“While it is true that it may take us 20 years to restore reserves to what they were six years ago, (financial) sustainability will come much sooner as we build revenue and regularly realize an operating surplus,” Branson said in his email.

FIVE FAST READS

- **Uber, Lyft to offer free rides to the polls on Election Day**

- **Report: Trump considers firing Air Force Secretary over Space Force disagreements**
- **UD, Premier give former fairgrounds new name, redevelopment could start in 3 to 4 years**
- **Ohio Governor's Debate: UD students react to first debate**
- **Ohio State wants to prevent Oklahoma from trademarking block 'O' logo**

THANKS FOR READING

The Dayton Daily News is committed to bringing you independent, in-depth local stories. Help support our journalism by signing up for a print or digital subscription.

Don't miss a thing

Get breaking news alerts as they happen

Most read

Things to do



Oil Painting for Beginners

Sat, Jan 19 1:00 pm

Add event +

See more

More from Daytondailynews
