

## **RESOLUTION ASA08-23**

### **AUTHORIZING THE CONTINUATION OF TRANSCRIPT WITHHOLDING WITH EXCEPTIONS**

WHEREAS, consistent with Ohio law, when a student who owes money to Shawnee State University authorizes the University to send their transcript to a prospective employer, and that employer verifies the transcript is a prerequisite to employment, the University complies with the student's request, irrespective of whether the University has a pending hold on the transcript; and

WHEREAS, the University believes the practice described above promotes the state's workforce goals, as well as the University's goal of promoting gainful employment for its students and former students; and

WHEREAS, in circumstances other than those described above, the University currently places holds on transcripts for students and former students who have unpaid balances with the Bursar's office; unpaid fines with the Department of Public Safety; overdue library books; or unreturned Athletics Department equipment; or who failed to fulfill their obligations to attend exit counseling at the Financial Aid office regarding their student loans; and

WHEREAS, officials in the Bursar's office, Public Safety Department, Athletics Department, and Financial Aid office have limited specific evidence on the rate of collection or compliance to fulfill other obligations, but maintain that transcript withholding has provided the University with leverage in convincing students to satisfy the financial or other obligations to the University that gave rise to the transcript holds; and

WHEREAS, officials in the Bursar's office, Public Safety Department, Athletics Department, and Financial Aid office do not believe that releasing a transcript for a student who has not met their financial or other obligations at Shawnee State to another prospective college or university for potential transfer promotes the objective of instilling financial responsibility in students; and

WHEREAS, the aforementioned offices that are authorized to put holds on transcripts have made exceptions, and have expressed a willingness to continue to make exceptions to transcript withholding in special circumstances; and

WHEREAS, the University has no evidence to support or refute the premise that ending the practice of withholding transcripts of former students will help those students complete their education elsewhere, and submits that absent special circumstances, when a student has failed or refused to meet their financial or other obligations to Shawnee State, releasing their transcripts to another college or university would not likely serve the interests of either institution; and

WHEREAS, the University has considered whether to end the practice of transcript withholding, applying the factors set forth in Ohio Revised Code Section 3345.027(C)(2)(a) through (c), as stated above;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Board of Trustees of Shawnee State University will continue the practice of transcript withholding except in those situations in which state law prohibits transcript withholding and when the official who authorized the hold finds special circumstances warrant releasing the hold; and

IT IS FURTHER RESOLVED that pursuant to Ohio Revised Code Section 3345.027(C)(1), a copy of this resolution will be forwarded to the Chancellor of the Ohio Department of Higher Education.

(September 15, 2023)