

September 7, 2020
UT-AAUP Newsletter
Enrollment Update

The UT Fall 2020 Preliminary Census Report from the UT Office of Institutional Research as of September 1, 2020 shows UT with a 6.9% decline in headcount and a 7.4% decline in FTE. The FY-21 budget is based on a 7.5% decline in FTE, so the Fall enrollment decline will not adversely impact the FY-21 budget.

UT has had a decline of 4700 FTEs over the past decade, a decline of 470 FTE students per year. The **FTE decline** this year is **-1223** students, 2.6 times the average annual decline over the past 10 years. The **headcount decline** this year is **-1368** students.

The New First Time (from high school) admissions declined 20.5% on top of a double-digit decline for the Fall 2019. All colleges had a decline except Arts & Letters which has an increase of 7.3% (233 to 250 students).

The final UT headcount is 14,400 undergraduate and 4,014 graduate, a total of 18,414.

The final UT FTE is 12,529 undergraduate and 2,729 graduate, a total of 15,259. The Ohio SSI is based on our FTE.

The enrollment numbers are moving in the wrong direction for the future of OUR university. We obviously need to up our game in student recruitment. There is work to be done. Faculty should participate in recruitment where possible, but the UT Administration has the ultimate responsibility and burden for the recruitment function. Because of budget cuts over the past five years, recruitment has also been cut. In one college the only remaining recruiter (a 20-year employee) was terminated by a Dean in search of budget cuts. The college was left with no official recruiter.

Despite the enrollment decline, UT academics as represented by the General Fund Budget are running a surplus. The May 31, 2020 financials presented to the Board of Trustees on June 22, 2020 show a General Fund Budget surplus of over \$30 million. The June 30, 2020 year-end financials are being finalized for the auditors but are expected to show a higher surplus because of May/June revenues from Summer Session I and part of Session III. The UT Academic Enterprise generates revenues and profits. For years we have been told by the Administration that we are running deficits. Some Deans are still telling Chairs and faculty that UT academics are running deficits. This is not true. Despite cuts in Ohio subsidy (SSI), COVID-19, enrollment declines, and a bloated administration, the Academic Enterprise carries on year after year generating revenue and budget surpluses.

The FY-20 University Consolidated Budget had a deficit of \$18 million as of May 31, 2020 but this deficit was not caused by the General Fund.