

Vice-Chair Wimberly

- Please provide an estimate of the impact, over the past two years, of the COVID-19 pandemic on the finances of each State college and university. Have the institutions experienced financial hardship as a result of the pandemic? If so, what were the primary causes of the hardship? Do the institutions anticipate any improvement in the 2022-2023 academic year?

TCNJ Response:

The College of New Jersey (TCNJ) has experienced significant financial hardship due to the COVID-19 pandemic, with a net impact of approximately \$57.6 million since the onset of the pandemic. The primary drivers of the hardship resulted from lost revenue coupled with increased costs due to the following:

- closure of the residential halls during the spring of 2020, with significant reduction in occupancy throughout 2021 into 2022;
- low room occupancy during fiscal year 2022;
- refunding of room and board charges to students for the spring 2020 semester;
- reductions of mandatory fees in fiscal year 2021;
- reduction of state appropriations (50% freeze of 4 months);
- enrollment decline in fiscal year 2022;
- increased operational costs for COVID-19 mitigation efforts, including testing, enhanced cleaning services, classrooms technology upgrades to support remote instructions plus faculty training.

TCNJ received various COVID-19 related funding (approximately \$15.4 million) and implemented significant expense reductions (including employee furloughs) to partially offset the decline in financial resources.

Compared to fiscal year 2022, TCNJ anticipates a slight improvement for the 2022-2023 academic year due to modest growth in enrollment and room occupancy.

- Please provide an overview of the need for upgrades to academic and athletic facilities at each State college and university and the amount of funds that may be associated with those facility needs. Please describe the impact that recently initiated, as well as current, capital investments in academic and athletic facilities have had on enrollment and institutional revenue.

TCNJ Response:

The College of New Jersey (TCNJ) has over \$500M in known deferred maintenance needs. These include asset renewal of academic, administrative, athletic, and residential facilities. More specifically, items needing repair or replacement include elevators, parking garages, fire alarm systems, building envelopes, roofs, electrical systems, mechanical systems (HVAC, plumbing, utilities), and athletic complexes. In addition to this extensive list, at least three of the College's existing residence halls are in need of replacement.

The State last provided TCNJ with capital funding during FY15 through FY17 time frame. Specifically, the State provided TCNJ with approximately \$60 million (including \$40 million

from the General Obligation Bond) to construct a new state-of-the-art Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) building, acquire academic equipment (\$7M), and renovate Armstrong Hall within the School of Engineering (\$8M), in addition to investments in various information technology infrastructures.

As instructional methods change, additional modifications and facility improvements are required to remodel and update instructional spaces to meet new obligations and requirements. This is an ongoing and continual need for the College and an area that cannot be sacrificed without adverse impact on student enrollment and success.

Assemblywoman Murphy

- What programs and other initiatives is the institution implementing to reduce the incidence of hazing and to promote anti-hazing practices and protocols? Please describe the institution's progress in implementing P.L.2021, c.208, which among other things requires public and independent institutions of higher education to adopt a written policy against hazing.

TCNJ Response:

The College of New Jersey strictly prohibits hazing of any kind in any student organization at the College, consistent with the requirements of P.L.2021, c.208. Students at TCNJ are held accountable for both violations of state law and college policy (via the Code of Student Conduct) as it is related to hazing. If organizations or individuals are found responsible for violating the Student Conduct Hazing Policy, the matter is adjudicated through the Office of Student Conduct. We include information on TCNJ's review process of hazing incidents

- [Copy-of-](#)

[RecognizedStudentOrganizationConductProcessHazingOrPersonalAbuse.pdf](#) (tcnj.edu)

Further, new members of fraternities and sororities are mandated to attend a hazing prevention workshop prior to beginning their membership. Additional information on historical actions/findings of hazing are maintained on the website of Student

Conduct: [https://conduct.tcnj.edu/wp-content/uploads/sites/44/2022/05/Timothy-Piazza-](https://conduct.tcnj.edu/wp-content/uploads/sites/44/2022/05/Timothy-Piazza-Hazing-Report-Jan-2017-thru-Jan-2022.pdf)

[Hazing-Report-Jan-2017-thru-Jan-2022.pdf](https://conduct.tcnj.edu/wp-content/uploads/sites/44/2022/05/Timothy-Piazza-Hazing-Report-Jan-2017-thru-Jan-2022.pdf). All parties who view the Fraternity and Sorority website are also forwarded to the Student Conduct website for historical data.

Assemblyman Scharfenberger

- How much have administrative costs increased compared to tuition at the institution?

TCNJ Response:

For fiscal year 2021, TCNJ held tuition flat, while reducing mandatory fees by approximately 12.5% and room and board charges by 4.5%. In fiscal year, 2022 tuition increased by 2.75%, room and board by 2.51% and mandatory fees restored to their FY20 levels.

In fiscal year 2021, institutional services or administrative costs totaled \$25,466,000 while the fiscal year-to-date expenses (as of May 16, 2022) for fiscal year 2022 totaled \$24,337,000 and forecasted to be in-line with the previous fiscal year level.

- Please provide, by category, the number and ratio of administrators, non-teaching staff, and faculty compared to the number of students at the institution of higher education.

TCNJ Response:

	Per FY23 OMB Budget Submission			
FTE (UG +Grad)	Administrators	Faculty	Non-teaching Staff	FTE Employee
7,235	39	395	815	1,249
Ratio	186	18	9	

Assemblywoman Munoz

- There are more than one million fewer college students nationwide. Since the onset of the pandemic, what are the enrollment trends at each of the State colleges and universities? Do you think this trend is the beginning of a movement in which a whole generation of students is rethinking the value of college itself and whether college is worth it? Are students working instead because their desired degree does not guarantee work in their desired field? Does that sacrifice long-term earning potential for short-term gain? What do you think the implications are in terms of socioeconomic and general economic impact?

TCNJ Response:

For about a decade, colleges and universities have been keeping close watch on the shifting demographics of the college-age population. TCNJ has reported on this downward trend to its Board of Trustees for the better part of the decade. Couple this demographic trend with the COVID pandemic and you have a shift to the higher education landscape that may indeed change the face of many institutions permanently.

Although TCNJ has experienced a slight decline over the past two years in **application** share, because of the strong reputation developed during the past two-three decades, **enrollments** have not declined, excluding during the most recent period due to the pandemic. TCNJ, in fact, has grown its first-year class during the 2022 cycle by over 100 first-year students.

Although perhaps not true for TCNJ, globally students are also re-thinking vocational schools, certificate programs rather than Bachelor degrees, and taking “time-off” to explore. We do see students and their families scrutinizing institutions more closely, and paying greater attention to the return on investment (ROI) of college generally, as well as the ROI to be realized at a particular institution they choose to attend. Retention, graduation rates and job placement are on the top of all parents and students question list when visiting. More students and parents are thinking about the value of the institution and whether particular majors are worth a high investment. It is one reason that *Money Magazine*’s recent publication listing TCNJ as #39 overall and #7 among public institutions of the same size (10,000 or fewer students) is evidence of the ROI realized thru a degree from the

institution. The magazine's focus on quality, affordability and outcomes as metrics strike at the heart of the matter.

Considering the current economic situation, the College is particularly concerned about options for our middle-class and lower socio-economic students. Colleges and Universities throughout New Jersey, including TCNJ, have done the best they can to distribute institutional grant aid to assist these students gain entrance and to graduate. TCNJ has incorporated this commitment particularly into their long-term planning. However, this may simply not be enough. We are finding that low-income students are very hesitant to take loans and forgo admission. These students are sacrificing long-term earning potential for short-term gain. For this reason, we support statewide efforts to invest in Early College High School programs as well as grants or support that assist our lower and middle-income NJ residents.

Further, TCNJ remains committed to ensuring a diverse student body - while 34 percent of current students identify as 'non-white,' the College is actively engaged in increasing opportunity and access for students in historically marginalized and underrepresented communities, with a steadfast goal of ensuring that the student body more closely mirrors the region's and state's population. To accomplish this goal, we are looking to increase capacity in high demand academic programs, and expanding transfer pathways for four-year and community colleges. We are also developing new dual-enrollment pilot programs for academically advanced high school students and fostering new flexible pathways for graduate credentials. State support and investment in these initiatives will only help foster success of the programs, and also aid in ensuring, consistent with Money Magazine's statement, TCNJ, 'keep talented New Jersey students in their home state...'