

September 4, 2020: "Where Does Tuition Go? Students Speak Out"

Students and faculty are coming together to make sure higher ed dollars stay invested in academic mission and fair funding and pay, instead of being diverted to private financial interests. Students are watching the budgets at their schools and fighting alongside faculty for our collective future.

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- Intro – Cathy Wagner, president of Miami AAUP, pointed out that **the crisis in higher ed is *not* COVID**. It's business interests that have diverted millions of dollars that could be spent on academic mission. Save Ohio Higher Ed is launching a letter to administrations and political leaders across Ohio to fight for change.
- 10:40 – Abby Stidham, undergraduate student at the University of Cincinnati and cofounder of BoldlyBankrupt.com, explained the **increasing financialization of higher ed and shift away from the academic mission**: administrative salaries that mimic corporate pay; misplaced emphasis on marketing and enrollment growth; underpayment and overwork of adjunct instructors; and Boards of Trustees made up of corporate executives who hold closed-door meetings. Abby encouraged students and others to get involved in this true crisis facing higher ed.
- 23:00 – Angela Glotfelter, graduate student at Miami University, discussed the **millions of dollars devoted to university branding and high administrative and coach pay, while grad students are underfunded, underpaid, and living at or near the poverty line**. Angela also discussed the current shift away from traditional graduate programs to fee-paying programs, in line with a profit-based model.
- 31:45 – Hope Jennings, professor at Wright State University, recalled **students' crucial participation in the WSU strike last year**. Students joined faculty on the picket line, organized their own protest group, staged a media campaign, held a 42-hour sit-in in front of administrator offices, met with leaders at the Ohio statehouse, and provided moral support to striking faculty.
- 50:50 – John McNay, professor at University of Cincinnati, Blue Ash, and former president of the Ohio-wide AAUP, concluded with a **summary of key points** and emphasized the **importance of faculty/student solidarity to maintain the integrity of higher ed**. John also overviewed current AAUP proposals to the Ohio legislature, including a requirement that Boards of Trustees contain student and faculty voting members.