Reported to the Board of Trustees
January 21, 2016

University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

Dashboard Indicators

TUITION AND FEES AND FINANCIAL AID UPDATES BY:
UNIVERSITY OFFICE FOR PLANNING AND BUDGETING
DECEMBER 11, 2015

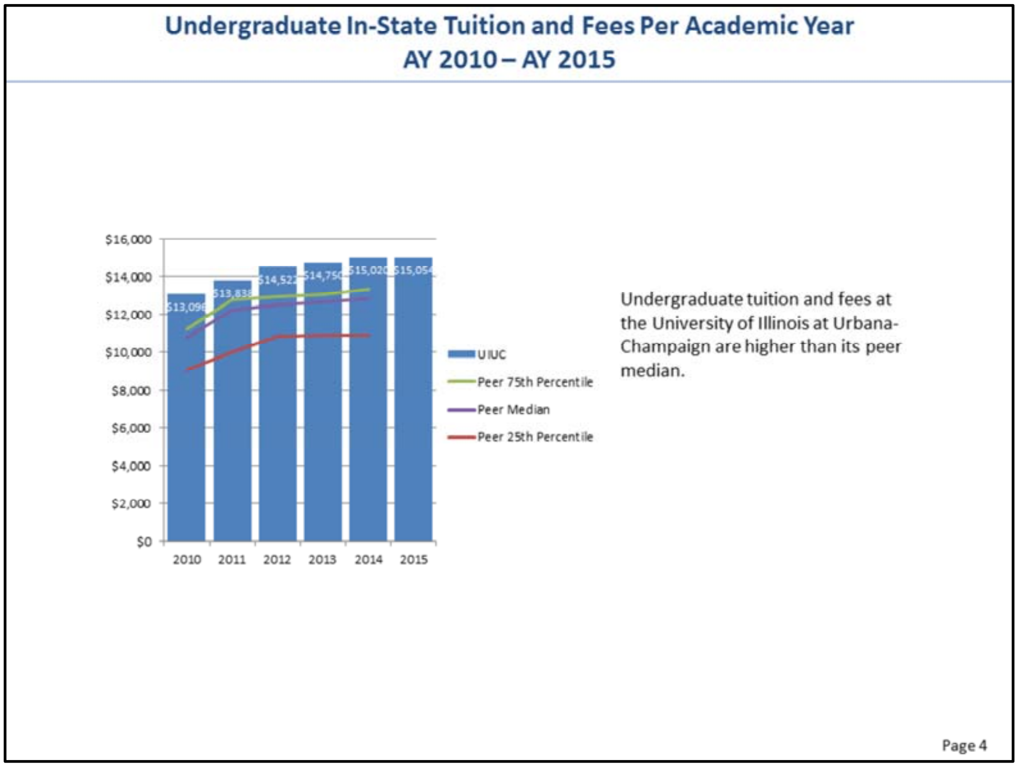
PRESENTED BY:
INTERIM CHANCELLOR BARBARA J. WILSON
JANUARY 21, 2016

Peer Groups

University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign*
University of California - Berkeley*
University of California - Los Angeles
University of California - San Diego
University of Michigan - Ann Arbor
University of North Carolina - Chapel Hill**
University of Texas - Austin***
University of Washington
University of Wisconsin - Madison
University of Virginia

* No medical center.
** Medical center affiliated with the university, but owned by the state.
*** An affiliated medical center is under construction and will begin operations in 2017.

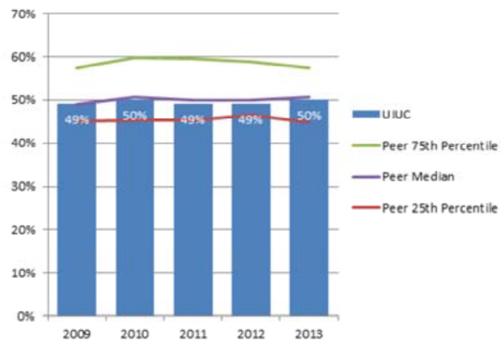
Tuition and Financial Aid



As you know, the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign is one of the more expensive public universities in the country, and this is apparent in our relationship to our peer group. However, this comparison does not account for the fact that Illinois students pay a constant, guaranteed tuition for four years.

Recent Board of Trustees policy to limit tuition increases is helping with affordability.

Percent Undergraduate Students Receiving Federal, State, or Local Institutional or Other Sources of Need or Merit Grant Aid: AY 2009 – AY 2013

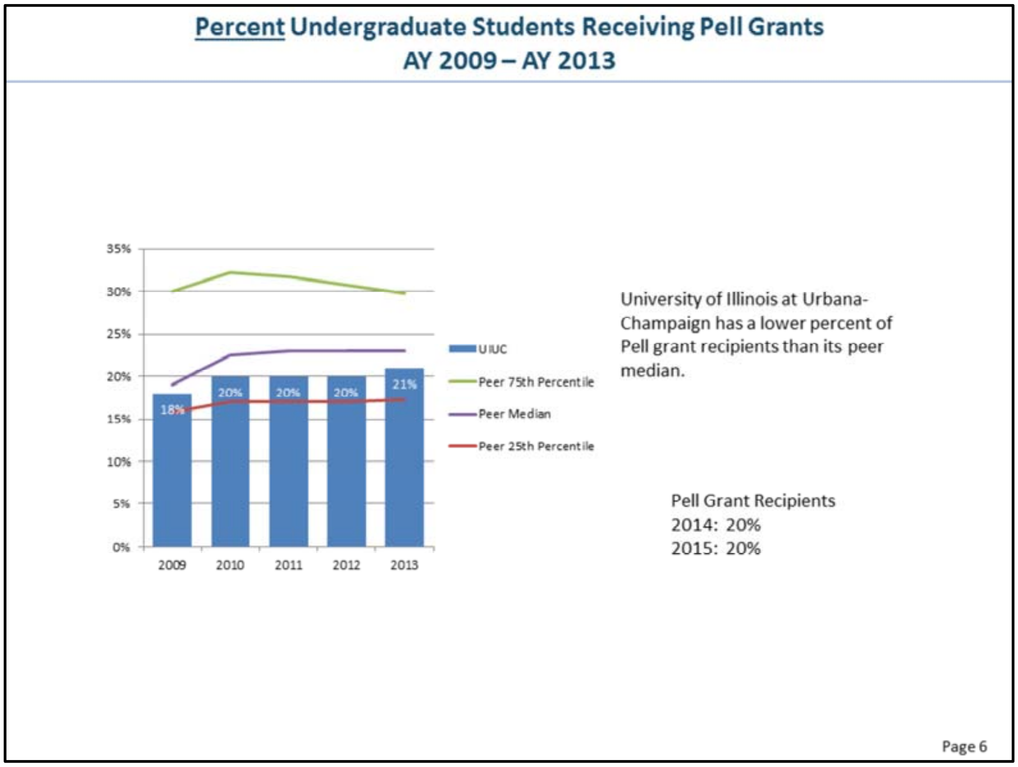


The percent of undergraduate students at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign who receive financial aid is on par with its peer median.

Grant Aid Percentage
2014: 50%
2015: 51%

This chart shows that 50 percent of Urbana undergraduates receive grant aid (i.e., gift aid that does not have to be repaid) – whether need-based, merit-based, or both. Most of these students are also taking out loans that must be repaid. An additional 20 percent of undergraduates receive no grant aid and are receiving only loans or are working (this group does not appear in the chart above). When these two groups are combined, 70 percent of Urbana students have some form of financial aid.

Both need-based and merit-based financial aid strongly influence students' decision to attend our campus.



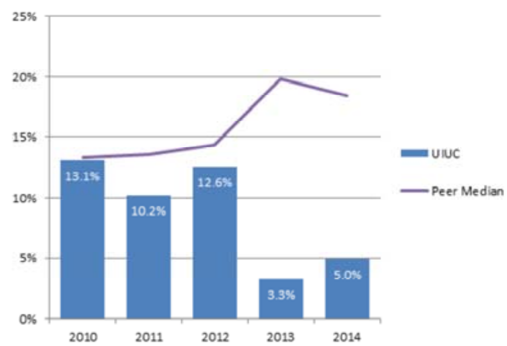
Pell Grants are federal grants for low-income students. The percentage of Pell recipients on the Urbana campus began to rise in 2005 with the launch of Illinois Promise – a program that supports nearly the full cost of education for Illinois residents whose family income is at or below the federal poverty level. This fall, we welcomed 326 new Illinois Promise students to campus, a record class, bringing the campus total to 1,070. Since 2010, our percentage of Pell students has held steady at around 20 percent.

Poverty level for a family of four is $23,850.

The percentage of Pell students is a metric in the Department of Education's updated College Scorecard. Also, the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign is highlighted on the Scorecard as one of 15 public four-year colleges with high graduation rates leading to high incomes, with a six-year completion rate of 83.9% and median earnings of students 10 years after entering the school of $56,600.

Percent Full-Time Undergraduates Awarded Any Need-Based Scholarship/Grant Aid Where Need Was Fully Met: AY 2010 – AY 2014

(excludes PLUS loans, unsubsidized, and private alternative loans)



Compared to its peer median, a lower percentage of need-based aid recipients at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign have their needs fully met.

Note: Excludes University of Washington due to lack of available data.

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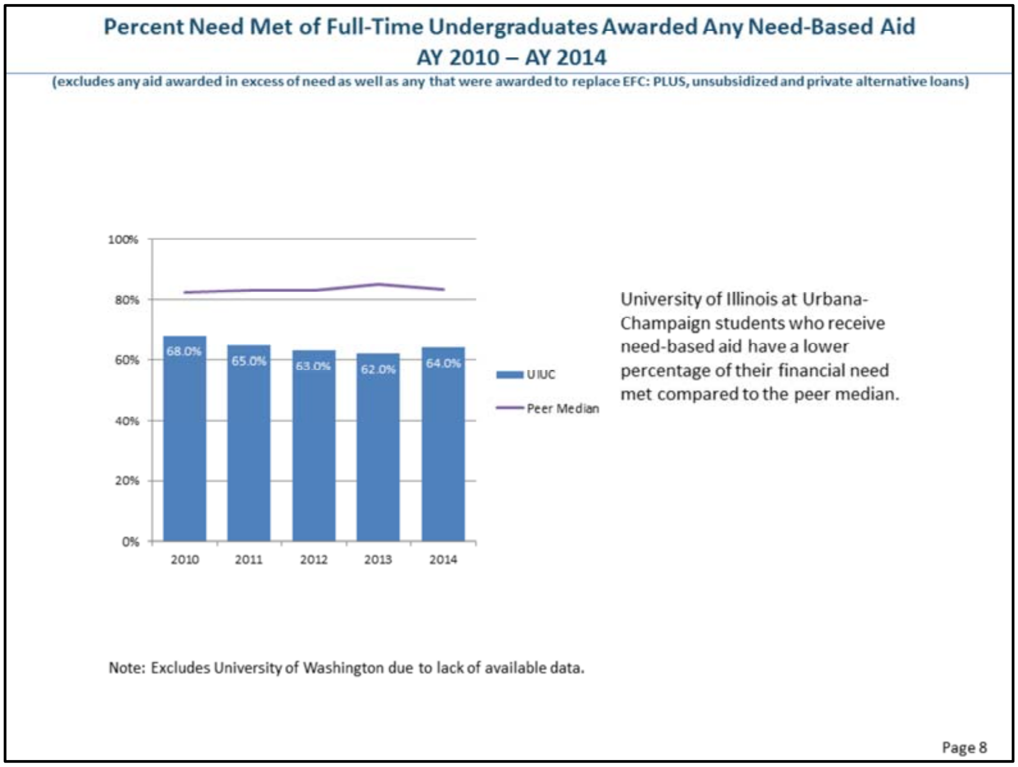
This chart shows the percentage of Urbana undergraduates whose financial need was *fully* met. (Financial need is defined as the estimated cost of attendance – tuition, fees, housing, food, books, personal expenses – less the expected family contribution calculated from the FAFSA by federal formula).

What looks here like a precipitous drop in 2013 is actually due to an accounting change. Prior to 2013, our campus was part of a federal experiment that allowed us to exclude loan origination fees from the estimated cost of attendance. Beginning in 2013, we had to include these fees, which are small: often less than $40 for student loans and less than a few hundred dollars for parent loans. Thus, there are thousands of Urbana students whose need is met within a hundred dollars or so who were not counted beginning in 2013.

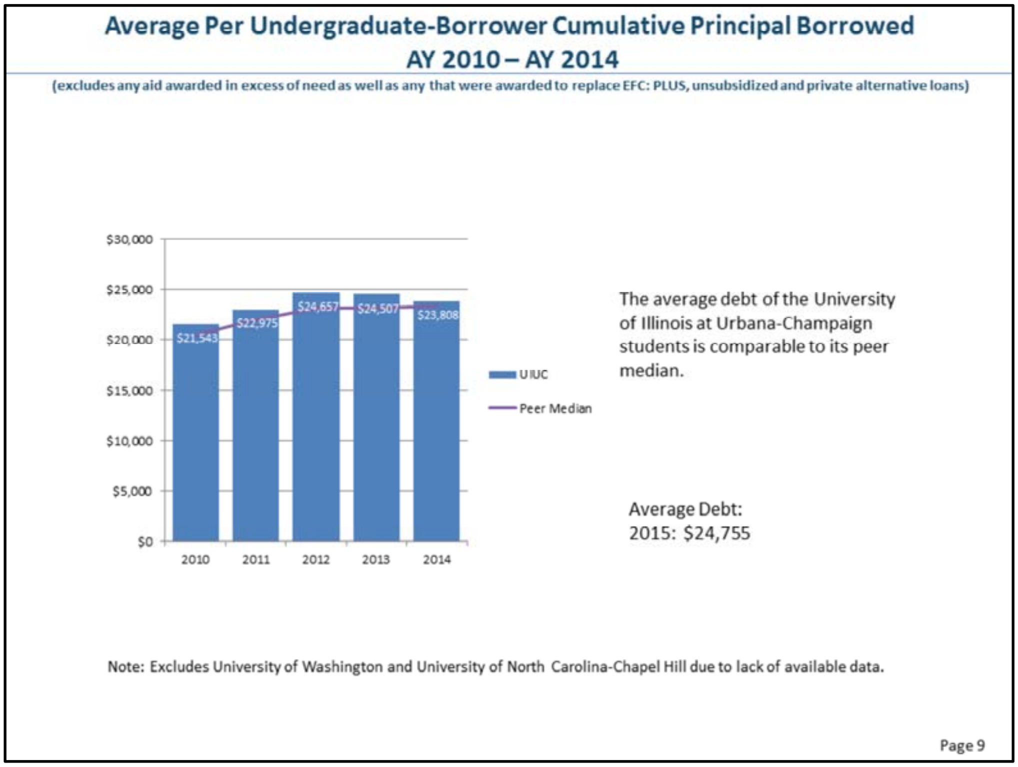
Unfortunately, this simply is not a meaningful statistic for our campus.



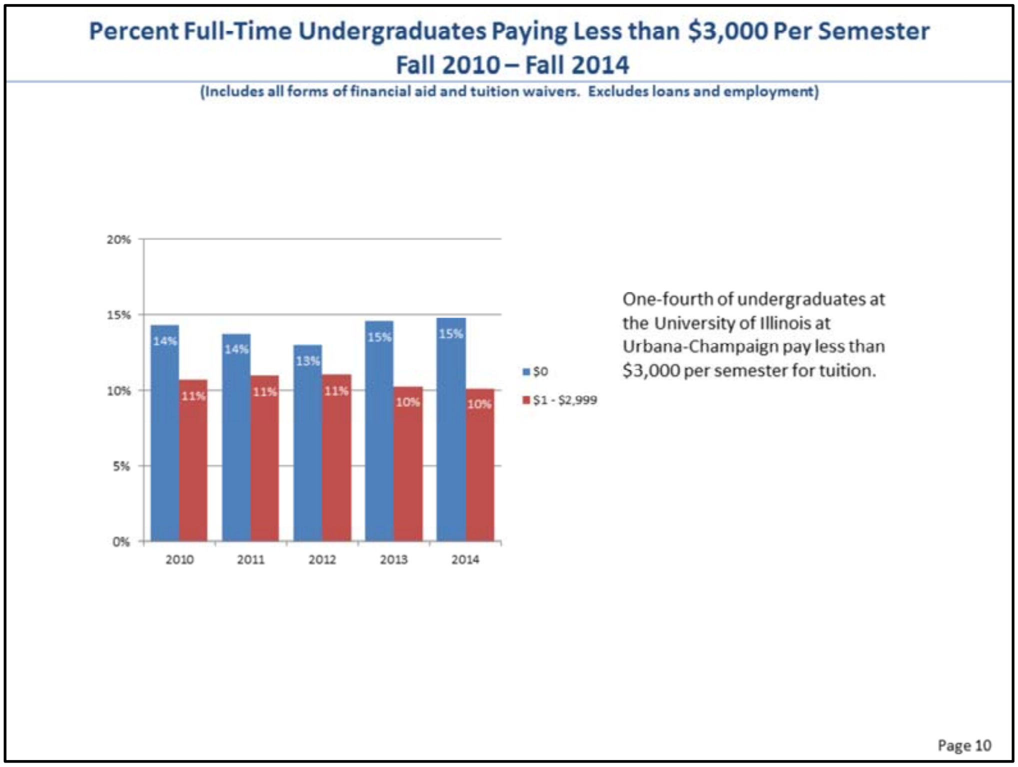
As we said before, financial need is the difference between total cost of attendance and the expected family contribution. We meet a great deal of that need through a combination of federal grants (Pell), state grants (MAP), institutional grant aid, loans, and work-study. Note that the lower a student's family income, the greater the percentage of their financial need we meet.

Although our campus does not have the resources to meet all documented financial need, we are making progress in this area. Over the past five years, annual grant aid from funds managed by the campus has increased by $41 million dollars. As a result, total unmet need for the campus, which had been growing steadily for the preceding decade, has leveled off the past four years and currently stands at $109.6M in FY15. Still, this is a critical campus metric. Eight of the top ten reasons cited by admitted students for why they decided ***not*** to attend the University of Illinois relates to our costs and their wish for more financial aid and scholarships.

In Fall 2015, the Chancellor's Access Grant was initiated to provide up to $5,000 in need-based aid for students of color graduating from an Illinois high school who did not receive a President's Award Program scholarship. This award produced a dramatic one-year increase in the yield for this population, from 42% (2014-15) to 67% (2015-16).



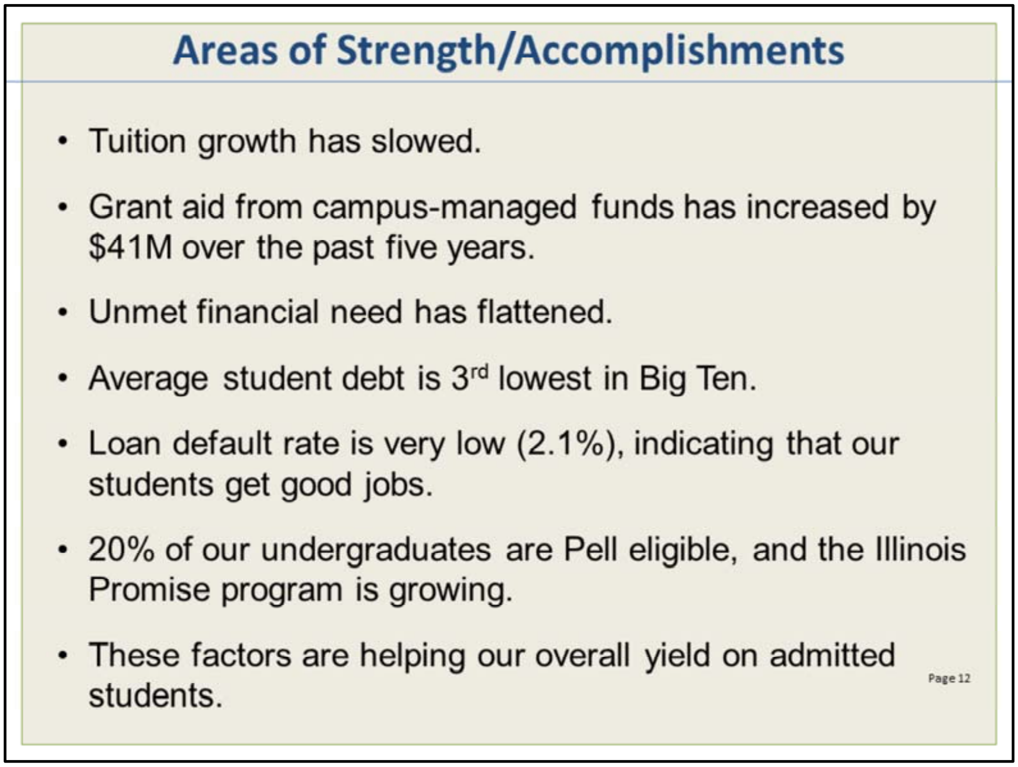
Average student loan borrowing for graduating seniors, which had been growing steadily for the preceding decade, has leveled off the past four years and currently stands at $24,755 for FY15. This is good news, and it is a consequence of our campus's strong commitment to financial aid for our students. Note these numbers are the average for the 50 percent of our students who borrowed money for their education; 50 percent of Urbana students graduate with no debt.



This traditional chart shows that 25 percent of Urbana students are paying less than $3,000 for tuition (after financial aid), and 15 percent have their tuition fully covered.

Note that this is only a small part of the picture, as it does not include fees, food, housing, or books.

Overview



There are many areas of strength and accomplishments of which we can all be proud.

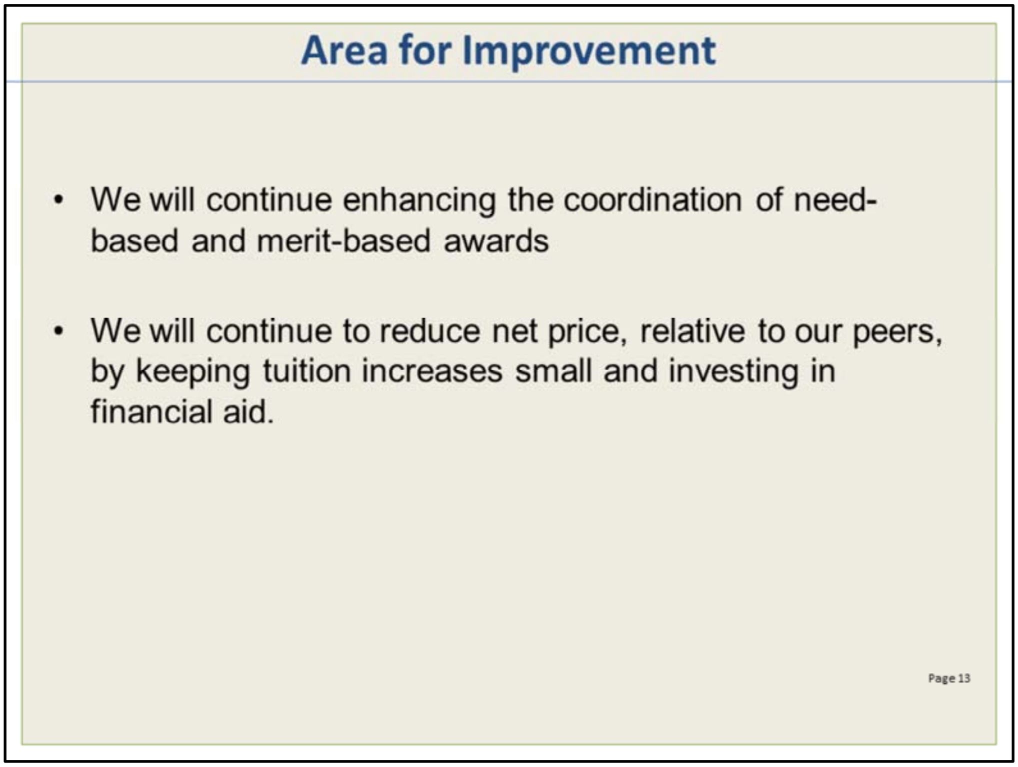
Slow tuition growth is helping the affordability of the Urbana campus.

A strong campus commitment to financial aid is having a clear effect: total unmet need for the campus has flattened and student debt is the third lowest in the Big Ten.

The loan default rate for Urbana graduates is just 2.1 percent, below the state of Illinois average of 10.1 percent and well below the national average of 11.8 percent. This shows that Urbana graduates get a great education, and they go on to get good jobs.

Also, we are committed to providing access to a world-class education, with more than 6,000 Pell-eligible students on our campus, as well as continued growth in the Illinois Promise program for students from very low income families.

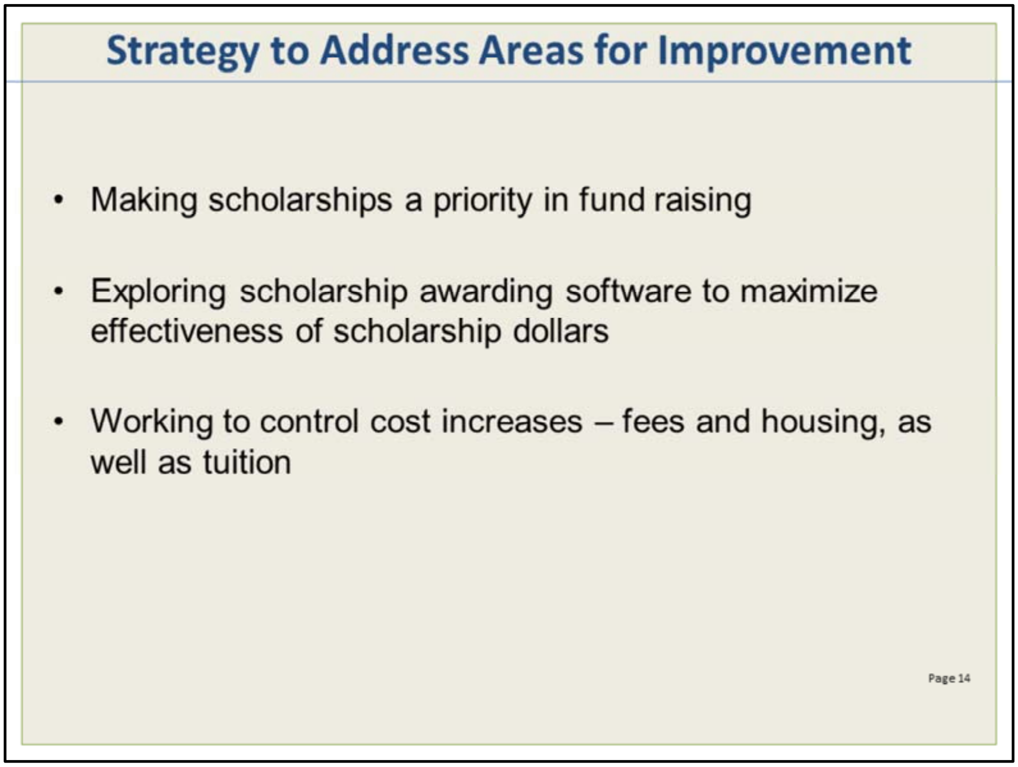
All of these factors are helping our yield, which is the percentage of students who accept their offer of admission.



As always, there are areas for improvement.

Some of our scholarship funds were given when a smaller dollar amount could make a big difference for a student, and some funds are difficult to award because of the terms of the gift agreements. We are building award strategies to maximize the impact of these gifts, such as combining several smaller scholarships for one student, while respecting the intent of the donors.

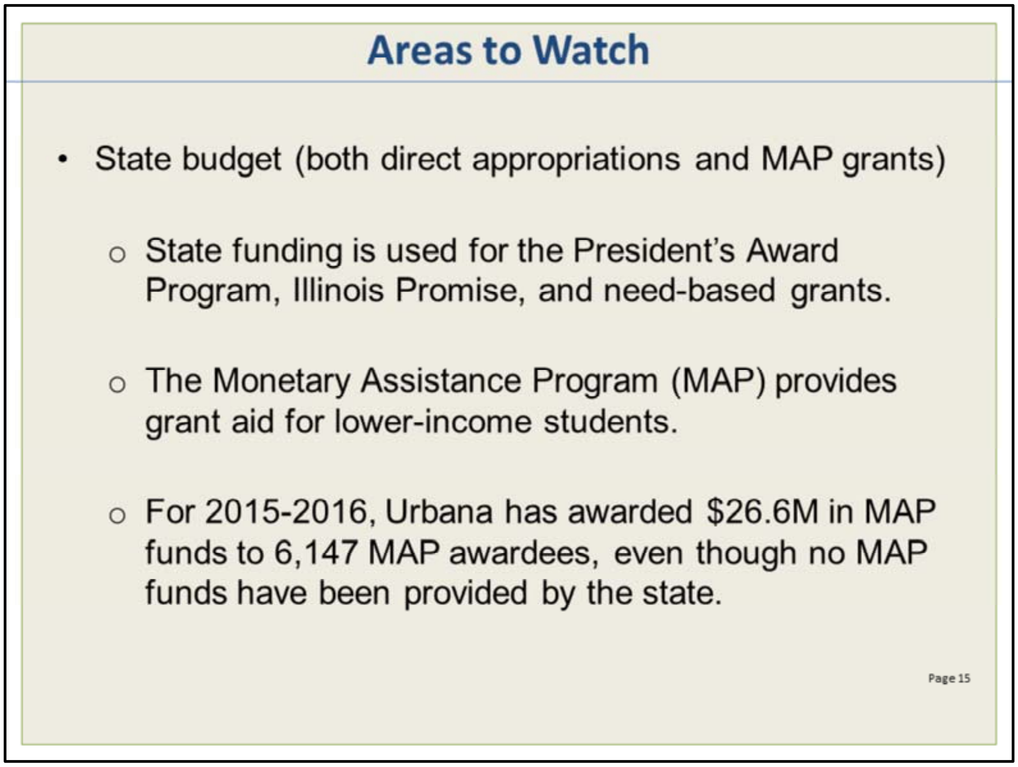
And we absolutely need to continue to grow the scholarship funds that we can offer to our students. This will improve admissions yield, keeping our campus accessible to students from all economic backgrounds, and will help reduce the debt of our graduates.



Scholarships are already a priority for fund raising, and they will continue to be as we go forward.

Many donor gifts have requirements about who should receive the awards and we are reviewing ways to better match these award requirements to students.

Finally, we are working to keep student costs down wherever possible. Note that this includes student fees and housing costs, as well as tuition.



The big uncertainty is, of course, the state budget. A reduction in direct appropriations would make it difficult for our campus to stay on its current path with regard to student financial aid.

In addition, the state's MAP awards – while not a part of the university budget – are critically important to many Illinois resident students, most of whom are also receiving federal Pell grants. The University has advanced funds to MAP-eligible for Fall 2015 and will do so again for Spring 2016, with an expectation that the state will honor its commitment to provide this funding.

Questions?

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