

Florida College System Task Force
Becoming a State College: Characteristics Which Define a State College &
Transition Criteria Workgroup
September 29, 2008; 3:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Workgroup Members: Dr. Kathy Johnson (Chair), Dr. Ann McGee, Dr. Dennis Gallon, Mr. David Armstrong

For Discussion/Consideration:

Unique Characteristics of a State College:

- SBE approval & level-2 accreditation
- Regional focus as opposed to state-wide
- Locally controlled (after initial approval by SBE)
- 2+2
- Open access at Lower Division
- Affordability

Recognizing the impact of these issues, the workgroup suggested questions/concerns for the larger Task Force to address as a group:

- Use of name SC for all 28 institutions whether or not they offer baccalaureate degrees?
- ***Options:***
 - All institutions in Florida College System adopt name “state college” whether or not they offer baccalaureates; or
 - Combination: community colleges (no baccs); state colleges (baccs)
 - Combination: community colleges, (no baccs), colleges (some baccs); state colleges (broader bacc. offerings)
 - Combination: community colleges (no baccs); colleges (baccs)

Issues related to “name” and transition:

- If all use term “state,” it may emphasize it is one system, but admissions criteria (or lack of), may confuse the public. (SCs are traditionally not open-door;--however, in Florida, we want to ensure open door at lower division); admission requirements at upper division only.
- Regional focus and local economy (SCs not limited to regional focus)
- Transition criteria cannot be addressed until SC is defined
- Confusion with CA system-avoid 3-tier comparison
- “Undue/confusing competition”
- If you must have SBE approval & be level-2, how does that differentiate a SC from a member of the FCS that chooses to offer bacc degrees?

- Possible solution: Once an institution has SBE & level-2 approval, it automatically becomes a SC
 - Institutions will want local autonomy
- Possibly have coordinating board (similar to old state board) that deals with program approval, advocacy, duplication, accountability, etc.