

Potential Questions for the Subcommittee on Baccalaureate Degree Approval to Consider

What internal and external processes should new 4-year degree program proposals undergo before being approved?

- What should be the essential components of any new degree program proposal?
 - Needs analyses; multiyear cost projections; impacts on existing programs; etc.
- What control measures will be required to ensure high-quality degree programs?
 - BOG Regulation on “Request to Offer a New Degree Program” is an example.
 - Will discipline-specific accreditation be required when it is available (NCATE, etc.)?
- How can we ensure that new 4-year degree programs will meet uniform state standards for articulation, degree hours, etc.?

How can the state avoid costly duplication of baccalaureate degree program offerings at multiple colleges and universities?

- What are the best practices in-state and nationwide today between Community Colleges and public and private colleges and universities? Should these be replicated or amended?
- Will we preserve community colleges service areas for state colleges? If degrees are intended to serve students across the state, should more state oversight and approval be required?
- Should some dialogue during the development process between the institution proposing a new degree program and all affected institutions be mandated by statute?
- Should some multiple-year program planning cycle be implemented for all institutions to determine the state and regional needs and how they’ll be met (how often: 3-year, 5-year...)?

Which entity should grant final degree approval?

- State College President and/or Board of Trustees?
- Commissioner of Education / DOE?
- State Board of Education?
- Some combination or joint subgroup of existing boards?
- Some new board created for this purpose?
- The State Legislature and Governor?
- Should there be a more rigorous state-level process at first until the new State College System matures and then devolve some or all authority to individual colleges?
- Should there be an appeals process for adversely affected parties?

Which criteria determine if a new degree program “meets state and regional workforce needs?”

- How will we determine, per the enacting legislation’s requirements, which “areas, both geographic and academic, in which an increased number of graduates who have baccalaureate degrees are necessary in order to meet regional and statewide workforce needs?”
- Should state economic development, workforce and industry agencies and councils be consulted at some point in the process to determine the state’s and region’s needs?
- Should present critical workforce shortages or expected future needs be considered?