

HIGHER EDUCATION FUNDING WORKGROUP

Project Outline

OBJECTIVES:

The Florida Board of Education has directed the Secretary to develop a project plan and timeline for comprehensive recommendations on postsecondary funding. The Specific objectives of the project will be as follows:

Appoint an advisory council to make recommendations to the Secretary and Florida Board of Education.

Review current state funding, student fee levels and the availability of financial aid to facilitate access to postsecondary education. Among the issues will be providing greater flexibility to university boards to use student fees to meet the growth needs of the institutions. The review should include methodologies used by other states to fund higher education.

Review and evaluate “what is” in terms of Florida’s funding policies for postsecondary education in comparison to other states and performance related funding over time for all post secondary systems. Examples include Florida’s percent of population with Baccalaureate degrees and costs thereof, or external funding for research compared to other states.

Identify “What should be” in terms of desired levels of performance, results and funding. Recognizing the overlap of accountability and funding, we will continually coordinate with the K-20 Accountability Project.

Determine and quantify the difference between “What should be” and “What is”. This defines the unmet need for post secondary education. While the initial component might deal with quantity and quality, another component is to address the need for specific majors or job skills needed or desired to support the economy and infrastructure of the state.

Determine the present capacity of Florida’s system to respond to the unmet need, in terms of facilities, faculty and other resources.

Determine the need for additional capacity and recommend alternative solutions. Do we expand existing universities? Do we expand four-year degrees to be offered by Community Colleges? Do we consider expanding contracts with private educational institutions? How can distance learning contribute to expanding capacity?

Finally, having defined the need and recommendations for an action plan, explore alternative funding scenarios and recommend funding policies that provide resources to fund the unmet needs.

This requires recommendations on funding sources to include State sources of revenue such as General Revenue, Lottery, Gross Receipts for PECO and other sources such as tuition, fees, financial aid, federal funds, and private fund sources.

The action plan will include a timeline to implement the recommendations.

PROCESS:

Appointment of Advisory Council:

Invitations have been extended to the following people:

<i>University President</i>	The Honorable Talbot "Sandy" D'Alemberte President Florida State University
<i>Community College President</i>	Dr. Eduardo J. Padrón President Miami-Dade Community College
<i>Student</i>	Mr. Andrew Gillum Student Body President Florida A&M University
<i>Faculty</i>	Dr. David A. Denslow, Jr. Professor and Program Director University of Florida
<i>Certified Public Accountant</i>	
<i>Chamber of Commerce</i>	Mr. Jacob V. Stuart Orlando Regional Chamber
<i>Independent Colleges and Universities</i>	Mr. William "Bill" Abare President Flagler College
<i>Independent Education</i>	Mr. Art Keiser President Keiser College
<i>Business Association</i>	Mr. Dominic M. Calabro President and Chief Executive Officer Florida Tax Watch

<i>Senator</i>	The Honorable Rudy Garcia Senator Florida Senate
<i>Representative</i>	The Honorable Sandra “Sandy” L. Murman Representative Florida House of Representatives
<i>University Board of Trustees</i>	Mr. Adolfo Henriques Trustee Florida International University Board of Trustees
<i>Community College Board of Trustees</i>	
<i>Council of 100</i>	Ms. Lynda Kever Member Florida Council of 100
<i>Prepaid College Program</i>	Mr. Stanley G. Tate Chairman Florida Prepaid College Board
<i>Workforce Community</i>	Ms. Bonnie Marmor Associate Superintendent, Workforce Education Orange County Public Schools
<i>Superintendent</i>	Dr. Arthur “Art” Johnson Superintendent of Schools Palm Beach County
<i>State University System Policy Center</i>	

Organization of Council:

The Secretary will chair the advisory council.

The Council will be organized by topic rather than by delivery system.

Charge:

The Task Force is to study and make findings regarding the demand for and funding of higher and postsecondary education. It is to recommend improvements to the current system based upon empirical data and its findings that will increase access, improve quality, minimize costs and meet state critical workforce objectives.

Responsibilities:

- Coordinate with the Florida Board of Education and its development of enrollment and performance accountability plans
- Determine the current and forecast demand for access to public and private universities and colleges, community colleges, workforce training, and proprietary schools using assumptions that model the current situation and improvements in the current situation.
- Inventory existing institutional outputs and capacity.
- Identify the data elements that cannot be incorporated in the analysis on a timely basis and make recommendations on the implications of their absence to the Task Force.
- Research funding models, identifying contrasting models, or higher and postsecondary education in systems of similar scale and complexity.
- Determine current and forecast workforce demand, including immigration off sets, critical skill sets and prospective sectoral educational level priorities.
- Identify existing and forecast patterns of workforce supply, including successive occupational change and immigration.
- Evaluate current and forecast information on available resources in Florida to accommodate, improve and fund higher and postsecondary education.
- Determine the existing state policies which impact funding in Florida
- Assess appropriate cost distribution
 - State vs. Private
 - State vs. Individual
 - Assess Financial Aid and Student Services
 - Review and analyze Bright Futures
 - Review and analyze Florida Prepaid College Program
- Identify Key factors, analyze findings and develop alternative models
- Formulate and Draft recommendations

Tentative Advisory Council Meeting Dates:

- Monday, February 25, 2002
- Friday, March 29, 2002
- Friday, April 19, 2002
- Friday, May 17, 2002
- Friday, June 14, 2002
- Friday, July 12, 2002

Staff:

Staff support includes staff from all areas of the K-20 System. In addition, there is staff representation from the Executive Office of the Governor, the Council on Education Policy Research and Improvement, and the Legislature.

The professional staff meets weekly or as needed.

TIMELINE:

Monday, February 25, 2002 (T)

- Opening by Secretary
 - Outline of Scope
 - Charge to the Task Force
 - Flow and Product Expectation

- Florida's Higher Education System in the Aggregate
 - What we know and don't know about who we are
 - The Categories of Players
 - State University System
 - Independent Colleges and Universities of Florida
 - Other Private Institutions
 - Proprietary
 - Nonproprietary
 - Community College System
 - Workforce / Vocational Education
 - The Key Data (Suggestion: The Map; The Table)
 - Locations: The "Total Map"
 - Number of Institutions
 - Number of Students, aggregated by sector
 - Number of FTICs, aggregated by sector
 - Inventory of Offerings
 - Traditional Degree Offerings
 - Continuing Education Offerings
 - Other Non-degree Offerings
 - Accreditation Status
 - Distance Learning

- Human Demands on the System
 - Forecasting: What we know and don't know

- Funding Resources Available
 - Required by SB 1162: Postsecondary Enrollment Plan
 - Tuition
 - Need-based Financial Aid
 - Bright Futures
 - Grants, Loans, Scholarships, Tuition Waivers, Graduate Student Support

- Comparison with Similar States
 - Institutions and Systems
 - Funding Resources and Models
 - Need and Demand

Friday, March 29, 2002 (T)

- Demand: The Second Cut
 - The demand by students for particular programs
 - Demand by Employers and Target Occupations for particular graduates
 - Factoring in a Rational Approach to Furthering Florida's Economy

- Conclusions
 - Magnitude of Problem
 - Resource Availability
 - Demand Reality
 - Expectations Defined

Friday, April 19, 2002 (T)

- Getting To It: New Models / Alternative Ways to Meet Needs
 - Workgroups in specific areas

Friday, May 17, 2002 (T)

- Preliminary Outlining and Writing

Friday, June 14, 2002 (T)

- Intermediate Draft Review

Friday, July 12, 2002 (T)

- Final Draft Review and Next Steps

FINAL RECOMMENDATIONS:

The final recommendations will be completed by July 15, 2002