

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:

The Secretary has prepared a short list from which to select 20 members for the advisory council, as follows:

- University President
- Community College President
- Student
- Faculty
- Certified Public Accountant
- Chamber of Commerce
- Independent Colleges and Universities
- Independent Education
- Business Association

Senator
Representative
University Board of Trustees
Community College Board of Trustees
Council of 100
Prepaid College Program
Workforce Community
State University System Policy Center

Organization of Council:

The Secretary will chair the advisory council.

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

Meetings will be monthly or upon the call of the chair.

Staff:

Staff support will include staff from the K-20 System. We have also requested participation by Legislative Staff, Governor's Office and CEPRI.

Timeline:

The final recommendations will be completed by July 15, 2002