



REGULAR MEETING AGENDA ITEM

TAB 6

May 1, 2008

Discussion Action

Topic

Task Force Proposal for Student Achievement Funding Proposal

Description

In response to the Board's directive, the Student Achievement Initiative Task Force was formed with involvement from State Board members and staff, college trustees, presidents, and faculty representatives to develop a proposal to bring to the Board for a new initiative to measure and award funding to colleges for improving student achievement. This item is a discussion of two recommendations included in the proposal to implement the Student Achievement Initiative, a budget proposal for funding the initiative in 2009-11 and an update on Learning Year activities.

Key Questions

- Is the task force's recommendation for a 2009-11 budget request to fund rewards for the initiative consistent with the principles and goals of the Student Achievement Initiative adopted by the Board?
- Is the Learning Year implementation, providing colleges with the opportunity to analyze and develop strategies, consistent with the Board's System Direction goal for raising educational attainment?

Analysis

Budget Proposal

The student achievement proposal approved by the Board at the September 12, 2007 meeting recommended that in October 2009, \$500,000 be allocated to colleges based on gains in Student Achievement measures, and that those rewards for improved performance become part of the colleges' base budgets. The proposal stated that additional funding will be needed after 2009-10 to carry forward those rewards and to fund new rewards for further improvements in student achievement in 2010. It was recommended that funding for student achievement be considered as part of the 2009-11 biennial budget development process.

The Student Achievement Task Force met on April 2, 2008 to develop a framework for a legislative budget request and to set dollar values for momentum points. The budget proposal uses the principles for the Student Achievement Initiative adopted by the Board. It assumes cumulative funding levels for colleges that would support consistent annual investments in student success strategies. It estimates annual growth in momentum points for the college system as a means of estimating the cost of rewards.

Based on these factors, the Task Force recommends a legislative request of \$7 million for the 2009-011 biennium. The members present approved the funding model described in Attachment A with one abstention.

Learning Year Update

SBCTC staff and the colleges are working together this year on a “Learning Year” to begin implementing the new measures and to develop achievement strategies. A series of three interactive teleconferences (ITVs) have been conducted for the system this year and a fourth one is planned for spring quarter. All the colleges have participated. At the last series colleges were invited to present their strategies in three categories: Integrating the Initiative into the College; Identifying Priorities; and Sharing Promising Practices. Most colleges made presentations and a number provided information to be posted on the Student Achievement Initiative page of the SBCTC web site.

Phase 1 of the Student Achievement Initiative evaluation by the Community College Research Center (CCRC) at Columbia University Teachers College is underway. The evaluation is focusing on how colleges have responded to the initiative, as well as the impact of financial rewards for colleges on student outcomes. Interviews with college faculty, staff and Board members are taking place over the next two months. Phase 2 will be an impact study conducted over a five year period. Because of the national implications of the initiative, CCRC has pursued major foundation support for the evaluation in conjunction with SBCTC. The evaluation is being funded by the Lumina Foundation for Education (Indianapolis, IN) and by College Spark Washington. SBCTC staff has written two reports identifying key hurdles for students (one on basic skills students and one on transfer students) using momentum point data and made numerous presentations to colleges, at system meetings, and at national meetings.

The college system’s institutional researchers have created a committee for the initiative. The committee has assisted in planning the ITVs, creating a resource web page for institutional research staff, reviewing the questions for the initiative evaluation to be conducted by CCRC, and reviewing the draft concept paper for the Retention Framework.

Background Information

Attachment A – Student Achievement Funding Proposal

Recommendation/Outcomes

Board members will have an opportunity to discuss the student achievement budget proposal developed by the task force, for consideration in development of the 2009-11 budget request for the community and technical college system.

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Student Achievement Funding Proposal

Principles:

- Colleges are rewarded for improvements in student achievement.
- Funding is structured so that colleges compete against themselves for continuous improvement rather than competing with each other.
- Funding is stable and predictable, and cumulative over time.
- Incentive funding rewards student success and becomes a resource for adopting and expanding practices leading to further success.
- New funds provide the greatest incentive.

Assumptions about the points:

- The first performance year is 2008-09. Colleges will be compared to their 2006-07 baseline year. This allows colleges to also receive credit for strategies and gains made in the 2007-08 “learning year” as well as the 2008-09 performance year when performance is rewarded in Oct 2009.
- Thereafter, the comparison is based upon one year’s point gains.
- Colleges increase points due to growth in the number of students served and in productivity.

Assumptions about the dollar per point values and incentive funding:

- Each college needs to have enough funding in its base to build and sustain strategies focused on student success.
- It is estimated that on average, \$100,000 would be added to a college’s base as a goal in October 2009 and an additional \$100,000 on average would be added in Oct 2010.
- The dollar value per point gained is the principle component of funds colleges can earn. Lessons from other states indicate points should be at least \$40. However, the value should also not be so high as to drive a college’s behavior irresponsibly. The proposal starts with \$40 per point and increases to \$95 per point over the next four years.
- Performance money alone will not be sufficient to reach the \$100,000 per college goal.
- In order to reach the funding goal per college, it is proposed to continue giving seed money in diminishing amounts for two more years. Seed money will help all colleges, and be particularly important to smaller colleges.
- Colleges must exceed previous levels of performance to earn new rewards.

Categories of funds:

- Seed Money—funds allocated evenly to colleges to increase capacity for student success strategies.
- Reward on Points—funds earned by colleges based on the number of points gained over their previous highest year.
- Added to Base—the combination of seed and reward funds added to a college’s base allocation based on funds the college has earned in previous years.

It is recommended that a budget request of \$6,989,250 for the 2009-11 biennium be considered in order to provide funds to create an incentive for the colleges.

Estimated Funding for 2009-13:

	Proposed \$/Point	Estimated New Reward Points	New Reward on Points	New Seed Money
October 2009	\$40	33,900	\$1,356,000	\$1,213,800
October 2010	\$65	22,000	\$1,430,000	\$919,650
October 2011	\$90	22,900	\$2,061,000	\$0
October 2012	\$95	23,400	\$2,223,000	\$0



