

## Mission Study Task Force

### Discussion Summary of Major Trends Implications for College System

April 22, 2009

1. Focus college resources on teaching and learning and student success.
  - Concentrate more effort on our core work with students
  - Free up resources for innovation, learning, and success by improving program delivery and the efficiency of administrative functions
  - Increase access to open curricular resources.
    - Enable faculty to pick and choose from others and continuously re-mix their courses
    - Provide instructional design assistance and professional development
  - Improve college assessment tools for validating knowledge, skills, and abilities and measuring student outcomes.
2. Reduce costs and improve the efficiency of administrative functions through technology and shared services.
  - Centralize back office functions as appropriate, while maintaining responsiveness and flexibility as needed
  - Pool resources regionally or system wide to increase cost efficiency and effectiveness
  - Address the lack of an integrated, easy-to-use information technology infrastructure that supports better administrative and instructional decision making and supports the sharing of student level data with K-12 and 4-year institutions
3. Standardize technology functions to allow for innovation and transfer of innovation among colleges.
  - Encourage innovation, responsiveness and flexibility to respond to an increasingly diverse student population and the rapid pace of technological change.
  - Weigh where standardization makes sense, adds value, provides a balance between centralization and local control, and frees up colleges and resources to focus more on students
  - Establish a single set of rules for all colleges, freeing up college staff time for innovation and student services. Some examples may include:
    - One uniform college application for all Washington higher education institutions
    - One financial aid application that could be used in any college in the state.
4. Expand the use of technology for anytime eLearning and self service student services.
  - Build technology infrastructure to support learning
  - Use hybrid, accelerated courses that use software to provide highly customized teaching and learning environments for learners
5. Put students first.
  - Determine and break down barriers for students, especially barriers created by the college or the system
  - Provide student-centered services

- Ask how resource allocations impact students
  - Provide a flexible structure to meet students' needs with a workable funding model:
    - Where – online, at specific locations, everywhere
    - When – flexible schedules, anytime
    - What – course offerings
    - How – match technology and other modalities with student learning style
6. Continue to reach out to business, matching industry needs with skilled workers.
- Strengthen industry and government partnerships
  - Use nimbleness to respond to opportunities