



Higher Education Coordinating Commission
Student Success and Institutional Collaborations Subcommittee
August 13, 2014
1:00-5:00PM

Portland State University, University Technology Services Building
2125 SW 4th Avenue, Suite 503, Portland, Oregon

MINUTES

Subcommittee members in attendance: Neil Bryant, Carmen Rubio (arrived late), Kirby Dyess (phone), Lee Ayers

Subcommittee members absent: Larry Roper

Other Commissioners in attendance: Rob Fullmer

Staff in attendance: Ben Cannon, Endi Hartigan

1.0. Roll Call and Introductory Comments

Co-chair Bryant called the meeting to order, and took attendance.

[AGENDA](#)

2.0 Update: Free Community College Report

Director Ben Cannon summarized the HECC contracted with NCHEMS to provide an analysis of the free community college proposal. The final report is due in September for review by the subcommittee, and the report under consideration is an interim report. Dennis Jones, president of NCHEMS, presented [Assessing the Viability of Tuition-Free Community Colleges in Oregon: a Progress Report](#), noting his charge is not development of recommendations, but creating a model with estimates of the costs of free community college tuition under different assumptions concerning student eligibility, student rates of participation, and duration of eligibility. Considerations included whether to assume first or last dollar in relation to the Pell grant, shared responsibility, and interactions with the Oregon Opportunity Grant (OOG). Jones noted that if Pell is first dollar in, then only upper income level students would be recipients because Pell covers CC cost for low income students. Subcommittee members asked clarifying questions and discussed the progress of the analysis.

3.0 Western Governors University

Chancellor Jean Floten presented an overview on the focus and history of the non-profit [Western Governors University](#) (WGU) Washington which serves 876 students in Oregon and has grown rapidly. Key features include flat rate tuition, flexible programs delivered online, a delivery model focused on competency-based education, and personalized support. The institution is a non-profit but since it was founded by governors it has its roots in the public sector. Subcommittee members asked questions and discussed the presentation. Co-chair Bryant summarized that while WGU operates in Oregon, students in this program are not eligible for the OOG. There was concern about extending OOG funds to WGU recipients given that the OOG is already underfunded for the institutions it does serve. Other concerns included a need for gap analysis, and Bryant commented that these gap analysis concerns have been answered. Cannon reported that possibilities for actions in the future include: 1) state endorsement for WGU, and 2) eligibility to the OOG, which would require statutory changes since WGU is not Oregon-based.

4.0 Discussion and Initial Recommendation: Pay It Forward

Commissioner Rob Fullmer and HECC staff member Donna Lewelling presented the [Draft House Bill 3472: Pay It Forward Report](#). Commissioner Fullmer provided background and updates on the draft report, the final version of

which will be submitted in September. Lewelling noted that the final report will include a link to public comments that have been received. Cannon clarified the discussion should prepare the subcommittee to take next steps and directions in terms of preparing the accompanying cover memo as it moves on to the Legislature. The subcommittee discussion topics included the benefits and likely beneficiaries of the program, and clarifications from Commissioner Fullmer on the comparisons and contrasts between PIF federal income-based repayment options. Carl Batten of ECONorthwest presented briefly on the [ECONorthwest Review of Pay It Forward Model](#). Batten summarized that PIF was found to be mathematically accurate, but suggestions were made by ECONorthwest on how the model could be more useful. Ben Cannon reviewed a [DRAFT Framework for Commission Consideration of Pay It Forward](#).

Co-chair Bryant requested that anyone signed up for public testimony about Pay It Forward provide input at that point in the agenda. Mike Selvaggio, former member of the PIF work group, provided testimony with a strong recommendation to support PIF. John Gibb who developed the PIF financial model for the work group provided testimony with clarifications on the model, with respect to ECONorthwest recommendations sensitivity analysis, tuition assumption, and other issues. Kalii Nettleton and Delaney Farr, both students, provided public testimony about their educational experiences, challenges of affording college, and student debt, urging the subcommittee to highly recommend the PIF to the Legislature. Susan Hills provided testimony about her experience with debt and students with unforeseen situations that leave them with debt challenges, and urged that the subcommittee recommend a strong PIF program to the Legislature.

Chair Bryant called for comments or suggested changes to the PIF framework from the subcommittee. Commissioner Fullmer disagreed with one of the recommended additional considerations in the framework since PIF is different from a loan program. No action was taken on the PIF framework or the PIF report. A new cover letter with framework will be provided at the September meeting.

5.0 Update: Research on Outreach to Underserved Communities

HECC Chief of Staff Cheryl Myers introduced Jessica Nguyen-Ventura, Oregon Hatfield Fellow, who has served a fellowship with the HECC performing research on outreach to underserved communities. Jessica Nguyen-Ventura presented on [Re-conceptualizing Outreach & Engagement to Underserved Students in Oregon](#) and the subcommittee members provided input and asked clarifying questions.

6.0 Public Comment

There was no further public comment.

7.0 Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned.

Meeting Documents:

[AGENDA](#)

- 2.0 [Assessing the Viability of Tuition-Free Community Colleges in Oregon: a Progress Report, Dennis Jones, NCHEMS](#)
- 3.0 [Western Governor's University Washington, Chancellor Jean Floten](#)
- 3.0 [WGU, State Report, Oregon & Washington](#)
- 3.0 [HB 4059: Western Governor's University Preliminary Report, 2012, HECC](#)
- 4.0 [Draft House Bill 3472: Pay It Forward Report](#)
- 4.0 [ECONorthwest Review of Pay It Forward Model](#)
- 4.0 [DRAFT Framework for Commission Consideration of Pay It Forward](#)
- 4.0 [Re-conceptualizing Outreach & Engagement to Underserved Students in Oregon, Jessica Nguyen-Ventura, Oregon Hatfield Fellow](#)