

Docket Item:

Legislative Workgroups and Reports

Summary:

Currently HECC staff are conducting research and meeting with stakeholders in legislative workgroups. Following are summaries of current activities related to bills of interest to the SSIC.

Steer the Education Enterprise

HB 2525 Credit Transfer & Transfer Student Bill of Rights and Responsibilities

Current status: The first meeting of the 2525 Workgroup was November 9 on the Portland State University Campus. That group heard reports from staff on national and state level policy scans, on current transfer student credit accumulation research, and on best practices for making transfer a more seamless and intelligible process. HECC staff plan to work with our Research and Data team on quantitative data and are pursuing an opportunity to work with Public Administration graduate students from the University of Oregon who are interested in education policy on qualitative research on transfer student experiences in Oregon. This research will be conducted in the winter and spring of 2016. Report deadline: July 2016.

Next Steps for SSIC: Staff anticipates that a draft of the report will be brought to the SSIC in May 2016 for review and consideration as there is a final legislative report due in July.

Lead Staff: Sean Pollack

HB 2681 Placement Testing & Policies at Community Colleges

Current status: HECC staff are collaborating with staff from the Oregon Department of Education and the Oregon Community Colleges Association to leverage the work of the Developmental Education Redesign—Placement Workgroup (representing all seventeen community colleges). The first meeting of the 2681 workgroup was October 23rd, following the Developmental Education—Placement meeting. The group reviewed the Developmental Education Redesign recommendations for placement, considered the information and national research that was presented to and discussed by community college teams, and highlighted the need for longitudinal student data to incorporate high school GPA and other measures to inform appropriate placement in courses. In addition, the 2681 Workgroup emphasized considerations of equity and access in placement policy approaches. The next scheduled meeting for this workgroup is December 4, 2015. Report deadline: Preliminary report February 2016. Final report September 2016.

Next Steps for SSIC: Staff anticipates that a draft of the preliminary report will be brought to the SSIC for consideration during the December 2015 meeting, with a final review of the preliminary report in January 2016.

Lead Staff: Lisa Reynolds



HB 3335 General Education Credential

Current status: Hatfield Resident Fellow Alex Straka is researching approaches to the problem of university students “stopping out” after the equivalent of two years (90 credits). While no deadline or work product specified in the bill, we anticipate filing an interim report during the 2016 Legislative Session that will frame the issue more clearly: how many students are affected by this problem? What are their reasons for “stopping out”? Do students want an intermediate “General Education Credential” that might be one response to this legislation? Would universities be amenable to creating such a credential, and are employers likely to value it?

Next Steps for SSIC: Staff will provide updates as appropriate regarding the progress of this work.

Lead Staff: Sean Pollack

SB 860 Career Advising and Mentorship Pilot Program

Current status: A Request for Proposals (RFP) has been drafted for pilot programs related to comprehensive advising, mentorship, and career-development pathways for students. The RFP is ready for Department of Justice review. As a reminder, universities will be selected for pilot programs based on: cost-effectiveness, existing infrastructure to fulfill program goals, ability to serve students from traditionally underserved populations. HECC will report on results to the 2017 regular session of the Legislature.

Next Steps for SSIC: Staff will provide updates as appropriate regarding the progress of this work.

Lead Staff: Donna Levelling

Broaden Pathways to our 40-40 Goals

HB 3375 Educator Equity

Current Status: HECC will require Oregon’s six public university teacher preparation programs to prepare written plans that detail the recruitment, selection, retention, and graduation of diverse educators. The six institutions providing plans are: Eastern Oregon University, Oregon State University, Portland State University, Southern Oregon University, University of Oregon, and Western Oregon University. A letter was sent from Executive Director Ben Cannon to the six institutional presidents giving them information on how the institutional Board is expected to review plans (letter dated October 30, 2015).

Next Steps for SSIC: Staff anticipates bringing forward plans for SSIC review and potential revisions between March and May of 2016 with final Commission approval expected in June 2016.

Lead Staff: Erin Weeks-Earp



Make Pathways Accessible, Affordable & Supportive for Students

SB 81 Oregon Promise Grants

Current Status: A comprehensive update will be provided during the full commission meeting on November 12, 2015.

Lead Staff: Bob Brew

HB 2973 Affordable Bachelor's Degree

Current status: University Coordination staff have researched the models and environmental conditions for affordable bachelor's degrees currently in use in Texas and Florida. Staff have also reached out to university administrators to gauge their interest in responding to an RFP (Request for Proposals) to create affordable degree pathways in partnership with community colleges that include features such as credit for prior learning, dual enrollment, competency based learning, and so on. Additionally, staff are sending out an RFI (Request for Information) to the field asking universities to send information on any existing programs that utilize community college partnerships or guided pathways to increase efficiency and affordability. Staff will write an interim report by December on information gathered to date, and will then empanel a workgroup to develop recommendations for the Commission and the legislative assembly. That interim report will be submitted to SSIC and the legislature, as appropriate.

Next Steps for SSIC: Staff anticipates that a draft of the report will be presented to the SSIC in February 2016.

Lead Staff: Sean Pollack

HB 2871 Open Educational Resources

Current status: A full update will be provided under a separate cover.

Lead Staff: Donna Levelling

Staff Recommendation:

No action required at this time.