

Program Efficiencies and Alternatives for Cost Savings – Higher Education

The following topic areas are for discussion purposes only and are the result of brainstorming sessions on possible areas to review and discuss in committee:

- **Textbook Affordability, Open Source Textbooks, and Virtual Textbooks/Materials** – Reduce student and institution costs.
- **Foster Higher Education Strategic Collaboration to Reduce Costs** – Encourage undergraduate degrees through college programs and college partnerships with Universities.
- **Program Delivery Alternatives** – Examine effectiveness/efficiency of various public institution, private institution, and vendor education programs based on quality and cost.
- **Bright Futures** – Review program policies for efficiency and effectiveness. Modify policies or create incentives to reduce delivery of excess hours.
- **Acceleration Courses** – Review acceleration options (dual enrollment, AP, etc.) and potential ways to maximize utilization of acceleration credits.
- **Block Tuition** – Authorize block tuition to encourage faster and more efficient utilization of course offerings.
- **Fee Exemptions** – Examine fee exemptions in all program areas.
- **Program Duplication** – Review program duplication in each region and encourage consolidation or collaboration.
- **Performance Funding** – Examine performance based funding models for higher education.
- **Faster Program Completion** – Examine incentives to encourage faster degree completion. Including summer term expansion, Bright Futures incentives, off-time and on-line class incentives, credit by exam, and other benefits such as priority registration.
- **Higher Education Articulation and Retention** – Improve articulation and retention in the college system through advising, program coordination, joint counseling, and technology.
- **Local Fee Adequacy** – Examine local fee variations to determine appropriate cost recovery.
- **Higher Education Internet Services** – Review options to substantially increase bandwidth with reduced costs (through FIRN or Lambda Rail). Enhanced bandwidth could encourage further administrative savings by allowing coordinated administrative technology.

- **Higher Education Enterprise Resource Systems** – Examine potential joint purchasing and development of financial, accounting, personnel, procurement and other administrative systems to reduce costs, increase uniformity, and enhance transparency.
- **Library System Collaboration** – Closer collaboration and possible long-term consolidation of library purchasing and search technologies. (Agenda topic for January 21st meeting.)
- **Other Innovative Ideas** – Open discussion of other alternatives for program efficiencies and cost savings.