

October 7, 2009

MEMORANDUM

TO: State Board of Regents
FROM: William A. Sederburg
SUBJECT: USHE Mission-Based Funding Task Force

Background

During the USHE Operating Budget presentation and discussion that took place in August 2009 at Utah State University, the Commissioner announced the formulation of a Mission-Based Funding Task Force. This group was charged with recommending a plan for the allocation of the state support dollars being requested as part of a mission-based funding initiative – one based upon the mission of each institution and its success in fulfilling that mission.

Issue

The charge of the Mission-Based Funding working group involves working expeditiously to develop some of the concepts and outcomes that might best support the Mission-Based funding approach earlier identified as being a priority. Specifically, the suggestion was made at an earlier Regents meeting discussion on USHE budgets, that the System take a two-tiered approach to the Mission-Based funding component of the Operating Budget Request. Several institutions – at least initially identified as the University of Utah, Utah State University, and Southern Utah University – would utilize specifically-identified mission-based criteria. The other USHE institutions would utilize Enrollment Growth increases as their mission-based criteria. In all cases, funds could only be requested when goals targeted to these various criteria were met. Additionally, in all cases, the current enrollment growth funding model – last funded several years ago – would provide an initial funding opportunity.

By mid-September, the Commissioner had identified members of the Task Force. They included:

Paul Brinkman, Associate Vice President of the University of Utah: to represent UofU, USU
Brad Cook, Provost of Southern Utah University to represent SUU
Linda Makin, Executive Budget Director of Utah Valley University to represent Enrollment Growth Institutions of the 4-year variety
Scott Wyatt, President of Snow College to represent Enrollment Growth institutions of the 2-year Variety
Paul Morris, Assistant Commissioner of OCHE
Greg Stauffer, Associate Commissioner of OCHE (chair of Task Force)

Early on, Task Force members were provided with an executive summary of mission-based or performance-based funding attempts across the country. A basic model was developed in order to provide a conceptual overview of how the approach described by the Commissioner and discussed at meetings of the Board of Regents and the Council of Presidents might work. Early recommendations have been made available to the Commissioner, so that additional steps might quickly be taken.

Commissioner's Recommendation

At the October Regents meeting, Board members will be provided with an update of the work of the Mission-Based Funding Task Force and discuss future directions relative to this project. Plans are to have a finished product in time for the upcoming Legislative Session.

William A. Sederburg
Commissioner of Higher Education

WAS/GLS