

Docket Item:

2016-17 Key Commission Discussion Items.

Background:

At the HECC's May and June meetings, commissioners described critical issues and ideas to which they expect the Commission to dedicate significant attention during the remainder of 2016 and 2017. On the whole, these items represent "big topics" that don't have easy or obvious answers, but for which Commission leadership will be critical in order to ensure smoother coordination of Oregon higher education and greater levels of student and community success. To reach consensus and provide clear direction in these areas will require significant consultation with partners and deliberation by the Commission.

Guided by their recently-adopted 2016 Strategic Plan, Commissioners agreed that over the next year they would attempt to provide additional clarity about how they intend to approach the following areas:

- The HECC's annual evaluations of public universities
- Institutional missions and competition within higher education
- Being strategic with long-term planning for state-funded capital needs within higher education
- Improving equity within higher education
- Increasing family engagement and community partnerships to support higher education goals
- Improving affordability

Since the HECC's inception in 2011 and its re-chartering in 2013, its Commissioners have consistently expressed appreciation and understanding that the Commission has a limited but critical role to play in Oregon higher education. Under statute, the Commission was devised primarily as a strategic planning entity that would have certain responsibilities for setting goals and monitoring our progress toward them, policy-making (eg the formulas for the allocation of state dollars to public universities and community colleges), and policy-advising (eg in the recommendation of capital priorities to the Governor and Legislature).

But while the HECC's charter emphasizes its goal-setting, strategic, and policy-oriented responsibilities, the HECC agency also inherited significant programmatic and regulatory responsibilities from CCWD (including its workforce division), OSAC, and the offices that license private post-secondary education. Moreover, many Commissioners have persistently advocated that the HECC has a leadership responsibility for higher education in Oregon -- even beyond where its specific statutory authorities may leave off.

Recognizing that the "big topics" conversations should be guided by a strategic understanding of how state entities like the HECC can most constructively impact higher education, in June the Commission reviewed and briefly discussed a May, 2016 Education Commission of the States (ECS) report by Aims McGuinness, [*State Policy Leadership for the Future: History of state coordination and governance and alternatives for the future.*](#)

Outcomes for Today:

For this item of today's meeting, the Commission will be joined by Dennis Jones, President Emeritus of the National Center for Higher Education Management Systems (NCHEMS). Mr. Jones is a longtime colleague of Aims McGuinness, and is a leading national expert on state policy leadership for higher education. The Commission will also be joined by representatives of Oregon community colleges, public universities, independent colleges and universities, and students. Executive Director Cannon will support Chair Bryant in facilitating the discussion.

Framed by the McGuinness report and Mr. Jones, and informed by the participation of key stakeholders, the Commission will discuss the following.

1. In the Oregon context, what do we believe to be an appropriate role for a state coordinating commission and agency?
2. What do we do with issues that arise at places where our authority leaves off, but the public believes we have responsibility?
3. As we move from strategic planning to strategic implementation, what will be our approach to areas such as the following?
 - The HECC's annual evaluations of public universities
 - Competition within higher education
 - Long-term planning for state-funded capital needs within higher education
 - Improving equity within higher education
 - Increasing family engagement and community partnerships to support higher education goals
 - Improving affordability
4. What additional meeting time will we dedicate for the remainder of 2016 and into 2017 to dive more deeply in to the topics above (especially under #3)? Are there other formats/resources we want to use?

Rough discussion timeline:

- 1:00 – 2:00 The HECC's role in providing state policy leadership for higher education
- Dennis Jones, NCHEMS
 - Commissioners
- 2:00 – 3:15 Feedback and perspectives from invited stakeholders; discussion with commissioners
- Community college and public university presidents
 - Independent college representatives
 - Student representatives
 - Commissioners
- 3:15 – 4:15 The HECC approach and perspective in specific areas; next steps
- Commissioners
 - Dennis Jones, NCHEMS