
Docket Item:

F&A Subcommittee Report – SSCM Review and Panel Discussion

Summary:

The F&A subcommittee discussed a number of topics including the proposed submission for the HB 5024 budget note report and the evaluation of the student success and completion model (SSCM). A panel discussion related to the SSCM review work was held as well.

Docket Item Material:

The 21-member SSCM review workgroup, appointed in July 2019, has conducted a total of 12 meetings since October including four during July and early August alone. Substantial progress has been made relative to the nine workgroup charges which include updating cost weights, simplifying mission differentiation, looking at transfer degree weighting, considering collaboration, student affordability and technical definitions for bilingual educators and veterans.

The workgroup has reached consensus on a number of issues that will create progress. These include:

- Updating the definition list of Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) degrees for the area of study bonus
- Updating the definition of bilingual education for the area of study bonus
- Defining completion by the number of students and not degrees
- Modifying the area of study bonus to be additive and not multiplicative
- Updating the cost weights
- Consistently applying transfer weighting to all transfer students
- Applying a bonus for community college transfers

The workgroup is still considering the mission differentiation component of the formula. A number of policy related questions have arisen. The discussions are complicated by the fact that this section of the formula is also affected by other potential changes listed above.

The subcommittee also discussed how to maintain a focus on student success during COVID-19. Lumina Foundation's Strategy Labs has, in consultation with other states, has developed principles and considerations on how to keep funding formulas centered on student success during this time.

Staff recommendations will be presented at the September F&A subcommittee meeting.

In an effort to learn more from stakeholders about their perspectives on the progress made by the SSCM review workgroup and the work remaining, a panel of representatives was invited to provide feedback. Some of the key questions included:

- Are the workgroup charges the most pressing concerns relative to the design of the formula?
- The overriding goals of the formula are to promote resident student success, support public service activity and regional missions, and provide funding stability. Are these affected by COVID-19?
- Will the formula affect student affordability? If not, what is a better way to do so?
- Is the formula's current approach to addressing equity sufficient? If not, how can it be improved?
- Is the model appropriately responsive to the state's education and economic needs?

Staff Recommendation

Discussion item only.