

Consideration Of Below-The-Line Items

Background

Each year institutions submit funding requests for projects that are not covered by the Mission Resource Requirement (MRR) Model to the Commission on Higher Education for its consideration. These projects are referred to as below-the-line items (Items) because they are in addition to the operating funds request.

Items that are funded with non-recurring state appropriations are required to be requested by the institutions and considered by the Commission, annually. Items funded with recurring state appropriations that are requesting an increase also require Commission consideration. Items funded with recurring state appropriations that are not requesting an increase do not require annual approval consideration (these items are shown for information purposes only).

Staff initially determines whether the requests from the institutions meet the Commission approved eligibility guidelines. Items that meet the guidelines are reviewed and analyzed and submitted to the Finance and Facilities Committee for consideration. Items not meeting the guidelines are referred back to the institutions, with the understanding that they can appeal directly to the Committee.

Items are summarized in Attachment 1, by institution. Descriptions of the items are provided for your review in Attachment 2.

Requests are labeled in one of the three following categories:

1. **Approved initially by Legislation** – these Items were funded initially without Commission endorsement but subsequent requested are commended favorably by the staff to the Committee.
2. **Competitive Matching Awards** – these Items have already received federal grants but required state match.
3. **Other** – these Items have various characteristics.

There are a total of 51 items for fiscal year 2005-2006. There are 19 items that are recurring, with no requested increase, and therefore no action is needed. Of the remaining 32 items, the staff has recommended approval of 31 of the requests and is not recommending approval of one of the requests.

Within the recommended items, 8 items were approved by the Commission last year but were not funded by the Legislature.

Summary of Reasons for Non-Recommended Projects

The one item not recommended is for costs considered in the MRR and should be funded through educational and general funds.

Recommendation

The staff recommends that the 31 requests presented on Attachment 1 be recommended to the Legislature for funding with the caveat that: 1) the program entitled “The Leadership Institute,” proposed by USC-Salkehatchie and 2) the program entitled “The Sea Island Institute” proposed by USC-Beaufort, have the respective Institutes approved by the Commission through the Academic Affairs Committee.