

Presidents Accountability Workgroup, Document Explanation, June 2005

(Note: The Presidents approved the goals and objectives in June and later appointed representatives to develop recommended measures. The measures were developed by institutional representatives and submitted to the presidents in January. The document attached includes the goals and measure as distributed in January 2006)

For the past nine years, our public institutions have been accountable to the state through a performance funding system legislated by Act 359 of 1996. This legislation was implemented by the development of a report card system of reporting on a variety of indicators and a mechanism to recommend funding based on institutional performance as measured each year. Over time, the system has evolved to that presently used, whereby institutions are measured on 13 or 14 items and an overall institutional performance is determined. Indicators were developed from those outlined in legislation. A funding mechanism reliant on institutional scores is adopted each year for the distribution of any allocated funding. For the past several years, however, there has been no funding available to allocate under this system. At this juncture, it has been determined that the required accountability program should be re-visited in order to build on the lessons learned and to develop a program that will provide more focused consideration of the needs of the state and higher education's role in addressing those needs.

During the past year, presidents of the institutions have taken under consideration the accountability system. The presidents met initially on two occasions with the Executive Director of the Commission on Higher Education (CHE). They determined that a smaller working group of presidents would hold a series of meetings with CHE's Executive Director to develop an accountability plan for consideration of the presidents. Meetings of the working group were held over the course of the year and the attached plan was considered and adopted at a meeting of all presidents on June 13, 2005, as indicated below. The work of the presidents has been informed by the accountability process used over the past nine years, higher education accountability programs in other states, the South Carolina higher education strategic plan adopted in 2001, institutional plans, and most importantly, several recent studies of South Carolina's needs. In particular, a study, *Foundations for the Future: Higher Education in South Carolina*, that was conducted by outside consultants and presented to the CHE in December 2003, was instrumental in serving as an environmental scan and in informing and shaping the goals and objectives developed in regard to higher education and its role in helping identified statewide needs.

Attached is the working document adopted by the presidents of South Carolina's public two- and four-year institutions on June 13, 2005, that is intended to serve as the basis for a revised accountability system for public higher education. The document outlines the goals and objectives and was adopted on a motion that it be considered a dynamic work in progress, that it is intended to be set forth as a replacement to accountability requirements legislated as part of Act 359 of 1996, and that any reporting under the revised plan that is developed should be considered in satisfying accountability report requirements.

The revised plan is intended to assist in identifying the contributions of individual institutions in addressing needs of the state while fulfilling their roles and responsibilities as public institutions of higher education.

A VISION FOR HIGHER EDUCATION IN SOUTH CAROLINA

Working Document of Institutional Presidents: Adopted June 13, 2005
Updated Working Document (with measures added): Adopted December 1, 2005

SHARED VISION: South Carolina higher education will be recognized and supported as the driving force for realizing the state’s ambitions for human and economic development so that all citizens can take advantage of the opportunities that the 21st century has to offer. Progress will be marked by enhancement and growth in:

- Creating a well-educated citizenry
- Improving the quality of life and standard of living of all South Carolinians
- Meeting the changing workforce needs
- Providing for a new generation of public and private sector leaders
- Positioning the state to be competitive in a global economy through quality scholarship, research and public service

SHARED PURPOSE: To develop a unified plan of action that will position higher education to strategically influence the human and economic development needs of South Carolina.

To this end, Higher Education stands committed to achieving the goals outlined herein through well-developed objectives and anticipated outcomes to ensure accountability in achieving success.

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

Goal 1: Help South Carolinians reach their full potential at every step of the educational process by supporting efforts within the state to reduce K-12 dropout rates, to prepare students for post-secondary education, and to increase participation in higher education.

Objective 1.1 Strengthen collaborative efforts between K-12 and higher education institutions to promote and encourage continued education.

Measures
1. Students, number of faculty, and amount of dollars and activities directly involved in efforts to promote and encourage continued education. Number of school districts as partnerships in K-12
2. Number and percent of high school completers going to higher education institutions

Objective 1.2 Create deliberative programs to engage faculty of higher education institutions and faculty of high schools in working together better to align high school curricula with college expectations using, for example, “Standards for Success” or some other agreed-upon college readiness standards.

Measures
1. Pass rates in developmental courses and in follow-up courses (this is a two-year college goal)
2. Percent of incoming higher education students going to SC technical colleges not

requiring developmental course work
3.
a. Number of high school students who pass dual-enrollment courses
b. Number of high school students earning a three or higher on the Advanced Placement (AP) exams.

Objective 1.3 Increase accessibility to higher education through targeted efforts to assure that students have the opportunity to pursue post-secondary education regardless of economic status, and through continued improvement in ease of transferability and articulation.

Measures
1. Net cost/median family income, average undergraduate student debt, and State investment in need-based aid as a percent of federal program spending
2. Number of students transferring from higher education to higher education institutions
3. [] expenditure per FTE student

Goal 2: Foster human development in South Carolina by implementing policies and developing programs that enhance South Carolina’s educational performance of underserved and underperforming populations.

Objective 2.1 Provide outreach services and programs to enable traditionally underserved populations in SC to acquire higher education.

Measures
1. Number of people and programs participating in educational, service, and outreach programs
2. Enrollment of SC students as a percent of SC population by race, gender, and geographic areas for undergraduates and graduates (check 18-64 age range)

Objective 2.2 Close the gap in educational attainment across ethnic group, gender, income levels, and geographical regions of the state.

Measures
1. Completions by race and gender of certificates, diplomas and degrees awarded
2. Retention from first to second year by race and gender
3. Graduation—State rate (includes transfers)

Goal 3: Within the context of institutional missions, the public higher education institutions of South Carolina will provide quality programs and work in cooperation with the business community to provide intellectual capital necessary for South Carolina to compete in the global knowledge-based economy.

Objective 3.1 Provide education and training in fields critical to South Carolina’s future economy and quality of life while ensuring quality programs and increase these programs as appropriate.

Measures
1. Undergraduate student engagement or participation in research with faculty
2. Pass rates on licensure and certification exams
3. Number of graduates and number of job openings in fields critical to SC economy (using Department of Commerce “critical fields”)
4. Number of programs that are accredited or nationally recognized

Objective 3.2 Within the context of sector and institutional mission, increase the level of competitive research related to South Carolina’s future economy.

Measures
1. Dollars for sponsored research
2. Intellectual property (e.g., number of patents)

Objective 3.3 Strengthen collaborative efforts between higher education institutions and business and other community/state partners in order to help South Carolina better compete in a global knowledge based economy.

Measures
1. Number and types of advisory boards, research park activity/collaborations, and small business development to include public service activities
2. Employment status of graduates (note: obtaining this information is contingent upon an agreement to obtain data from the SC Employment Security Commission)
3. Number of undergraduate students participating in for credit internships, directed studies, and co-op’s.

Objectives and measures for Goals 4 and 5 were not discussed in the November meeting.

Goal 4: Foster human development in South Carolina through a dynamic cultural and ecological stewardship that forms and expands a public agenda of artistic creativity, humanities research and education, and environmental preservation and protection.

Objectives to be determined by institution and/or sector

Goal 5: A separate optional goal to be developed by the reporting institution(s) that speaks to other statewide contributions of individual institutions or groups of cooperating institutions.