

DISCUSSION DRAFT

For Discussion Purposes **Higher Education Study Committee Advisory Groups** September 19, 2007

The Higher Education Study Committee is charged with developing a multi-year statewide strategic plan for higher education to meet the needs of the state as can be addressed by higher education. In doing so, the Study Committee is to consider five categories set forth by a previous Task Force on Higher Education.

These areas include:

- 1) Institutional Missions and Academic Programs and Planning
- 2) Enrollment
- 3) Funding and Institutional Cost
- 4) Buildings, Facilities and Information Technology
- 5) Organization and Plan Implementation

Additionally, the Study Committee is to include recommendations for all state supported higher education scholarship and grant programs whether funded through the Education Lottery or the State General Fund.

Establishing advisory groups to inform the work of the Higher Education Study Committee was recommended at the first meeting. The purpose of these smaller working groups would be to provide more in-depth analysis and information for consideration by the Study Committee. The groups could be organized along two separate dimensions. Some groups might be formed to address tactical items where specific recommendations could be developed in time for this year's budget considerations. Another group or groups might be asked to address broader issues relating to planning. Since it may not be possible for the Study Committee to recommend a fully developed statewide action/strategic plan by the deadline of February 1, 2008, these latter group or groups could begin the necessary front-end work for the Study Committee, describing how a statewide action/strategic plan and its implementation might be envisioned.

Membership of these groups would be a manageable size to include appropriate representation (twelve or fewer members), with at least one Study Committee member who would serve as the chair. Other advisory group members would include appropriate institutional, state and/or business representation suited to address the particular topic.

The advisory committees suggested below are organized to address the state's higher education needs along two dimensions:

- Issues of tactical importance incorporating representation largely from within higher education to address internal, detailed higher education items
- Issues relating to broader comprehensive action/strategic planning incorporating representation from a larger group of persons, both internal and external to higher education.

The descriptions of suggested Advisory Groups follow.

A. Tactical Higher Education Advisory Groups

1) Scholarship and Need-based Aid

Related Category - 2) Enrollment

Description—What are the objectives of South Carolina’s current financial aid programs? Assuming an overall state goal of increasing educational access and achievement, how could these programs be optimized to have the greatest effect? What is the effect of aid programs on retaining graduates in South Carolina? What is an appropriate balance between merit-based and need-based aid?

Membership—XXXXXXXXXXXXX

2) Capital Planning

Related Categories—3) Funding and Institutional Cost and 4) Buildings, Facilities, and Information Technology

Description—How can South Carolina implement a system of capital funding for higher education that promotes efficient and effective planning? Can South Carolina develop a funding stream that will be available to address mounting deferred maintenance needs of our colleges and universities?

Membership—XXXXXXXXXXXXX

3) Efficiently and Effectively Increasing Capacity to Meet State Needs

Related Categories—All five categories, 1) Institutional Missions and Academic Programs and Planning; 2) Enrollment; 3) Funding and Institutional Cost; 4) Buildings, Facilities and Information Technology; and 5) Organization and Plan Implementation

Description—How can South Carolina build a system of higher education that operates as efficiently as possible, and scales to respond to the expanded enrollments that will be required if the state is to compete in the knowledge economy? Can South Carolina expand articulations, bridge programs, and the use of technology at colleges and universities that will provide students with cost-effective and academically accepted program alternatives? What funding considerations are necessary?

Membership—XXXXXXXXXXXXX

B. Action/Strategic Planning Advisory Groups

1) Comprehensive Action/Strategic Statewide Planning

Related Categories—1) Institutional Missions and Academic Programs and Planning; 2) Enrollment; 3) Funding and Institutional Cost; and 4) Buildings, Facilities and Information Technology

Description—How can South Carolina build an Action Plan for Higher Education that effectively connects the operations of higher education to the state’s needs? How can we be sure that such a plan is pragmatic, well grounded in public support, and allocates responsibility for implementation among the various parties including the higher education institutions, the state, and the business community? How can this short-term plan be connected to a long-range strategic plan?

Membership—XXXXXXXXXXXXX