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November 1, 2012

Dr. Jason Geddes, Chairman
Board of Regents, Nevada System of Higher Education
2601 Enterprise Road
Reno, NV 89512-1666

Dear Chairman Geddes,

At its final meeting on August 29, 2012, the Committee to Study the Funding of Higher Education adopted six recommendations that included either a letter to the Board of Regents (Board) or a recommendation for Board action on a particular issue. Please accept this letter as conveying the Committee's six recommendations to the Board.

Recommendation #1:

The Committee recommended that the Board adopt a mandatory, prospective policy to standardize the issuance and associated data collection of "F" grades issued to students for non-attendance ("FN").

Background:

The Committee recommended the use of completed credit hours as the primary driver of a new funding formula rather than student full-time equivalent (SFTE) enrollments. In adopting the recommendation, the Committee recommended that the credit hours associated with the letter grades and codes for Withdrawal ("W"), blank grades, and "F" grades issued for non-attendance ("FN") be excluded from the count of completed credit hours.

Recommendation #2:

The Committee recommended that the Board determine the scope and cost of a cost study to determine Nevada-specific credit hour weightings for presentation as a standalone funding request to the 2013 Legislature.

Background:

The Committee adopted the recommendation that completed student credit hours be weighted to reflect cost level differences by academic discipline and by instructional level.

The Committee adopted the credit hour weights recommended by the Nevada System of Higher Education (NSHE), which was based upon the National Center for Higher Education Management Systems (NCHEMS) analysis of four states' cost studies. In adopting the credit hour weights, the Committee discussed the benefits of using Nevada-specific weights.

APPENDIX E

Recommendation #3:

The Committee recommended a policy to the Board that students who complete a remedial instruction course be given priority placement in a for-credit course of the same academic discipline in the succeeding academic semester.

Background:

The Funding Formula Subcommittee discussed and adopted a recommendation regarding improving NSHE students' ability to register timely for for-credit courses after completing remedial instruction courses at NSHE institutions. The recommendation was adopted by the Committee.

Recommendation #4:

The Committee recommended that the structure and operation of the performance pool as well as the specific performance measures and each measure's associated policy weight should be further refined by a Board of Regents-appointed working group that should include members of the Committee.

Background:

In adopting recommendations regarding the establishment of a system of performance funding for the NSHE teaching institutions, the Committee determined that further refinement of the proposed performance pool structure, operation, measures/metrics and weighting was necessary.

Recommendation #5:

The Committee adopted the recommendation of the Community College Funding Subcommittee that the Board should adopt policies that assist the community colleges in being more effective in competing for federal grants, including the Community College and Career Training Grant (C3TG), Hispanic-Serving Institution (HSI) designation grants and other available community college resources, both private as well as federal. Additionally, the Committee recommended that the Board provide a plan of action and recommended to the Board that it review or update its strategic plan to include assisting the colleges.

Background:

The Community College Funding Subcommittee discussed and adopted the recommendation that the Board should adopt policies that would assist the community colleges in being more successful when competing for grant funding opportunities.

Recommendation #6:

The Committee adopted the recommendation from the Community College Funding Subcommittee that in the implementation of a new funding formula, the Board should give attention to the following issues impacting community college students in particular and all NSHE institutions in general:

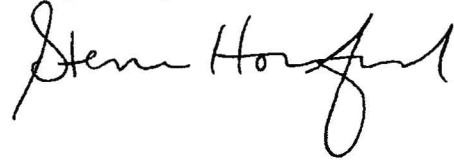
- a. The necessity for a system of "like" student IDs throughout the system;
- b. Increasing dual credit opportunities;
- c. Tuition transparency; and
- d. The transfer of credits.

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Background:

The Community College Funding Subcommittee discussed and adopted a recommendation to assist students in their education and interaction with all NSHE institutions.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Steven Horsford". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Steven" and last name "Horsford" clearly distinguishable.

Steven A. Horsford
Chairman

cc: Daniel Klaich, Chancellor, Nevada System of Higher Education