

TOPIC: 50% PLAN SYSTEM WIDE OVERVIEW

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I. SUMMARY & BACKGROUND

Senate Bill 10-003 included a provision requiring institutional governing boards to each submit a report to the Colorado Commission on Higher Education and the Joint Budget Committee:

Describing the governing board's plans to fund its institution or institutions of higher education in the following fiscal year, if the general assembly reduces overall state funding for higher education by fifty percent (50%).

The governing boards' 50% plans must specifically address the manner in which the institution will serve students who graduate from a Colorado high school and are enrolling as first-time freshman student and meet one or more of the following criteria:

- The student's family is low-income and the student is likely to incur significant student debt in attending an institution of higher education;
- The student's parents did not attend postsecondary education and may not have graduated from high school;
- The student is a member of an underrepresented population; or
- The student has limited access to technologies to support learning.

The Department intends to include, as a forward to the governing board specific sections of the 50% plan, a system-wide overview discussing impacts of a reduction of this magnitude on the system of public higher education in Colorado.

At the October 2010 Commission meeting, staff presented a draft of this system-wide overview for comment. Staff also provided the draft to institutional CEOs and chief financial officers for their feedback.

The updated draft of the 50% plan system-wide overview is attached to this agenda item. The final report is due to the Joint Budget Committee and CCHE on November 10, 2010.

II. STAFF ANALYSIS

Department staff has solicited and incorporated feedback into the 50% plan system-wide overview. This system-wide overview will be the forward to the governing board specific plans in the final 50% plan report due on November 10, 2010.

III. STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Commission approve the 50% Plan System-Wide Overview as a forward to the full 50% report to be submitted to the JBC by November 10, 2010.

STATUTORY AUTHORITY

This action creates a forward system wide overview narrative to the requirements included in Senate Bill 10-003.

Section 23-4-104, (4), C.R.S. (2010)