

TOPIC: REVIEW WORKING DRAFT DOCUMENT AND PRELIMINARY CONCEPTS FOR A STATE TUITION POLICY

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I. SUMMARY

This discussion item is to share the working draft document and staff drafts of preliminary concepts for meeting the state tuition policy requirement as required by HB 14-1319. The working draft is attached; staff drafts of preliminary concepts are still being prepared and will be sent later under separate cover.

II. BACKGROUND

HB 14-1319 tasked the Colorado Commission on Higher Education (CCHE) with developing a new performance-based allocation model by January 15, 2015, to allocate State funds to public institutions of higher education. The legislation also directed CCHE to submit to the General Assembly by November 1, 2015, a tuition policy recommendation that ensures both accessible and affordable higher education for Colorado residents, while reflecting the level of state funding for institutions and the need of each institution to enhance the financial position of the institution.

As part of the implementation plan for HB 14-1319, the Department established a Cost Driver and Analysis Expert Team to provide the CCHE with a thorough analysis of what is driving costs of higher education in Colorado. Additionally, the topic of the CCHE's annual retreat, which was held August 6-7, was "affordability" with the primary goal of formulating a preliminary tuition policy.

The attached working draft document represents the culmination of the work and collaboration to date to develop tuition policy options for the Commission to consider during the September 3, 2015 meeting.

III. STAFF ANALYSIS

The attached working draft document represents the culmination of the work and collaboration to date to develop tuition policy options for the Commission to consider during the September 3, 2015 meeting.

- Section I provides a background on CCHE's statutory charge to develop tuition policy and the subsequent actions and events that have occurred.
- Section II recaps the CCHE Retreat in August.

Staff is working on a decision-tree framework, based on CCHE discussion that will be sent under separate cover and will be used to discuss various policy options.

IV. STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS

This item is for discussion only; there is no recommendation at this time.

V. STATUTORY AUTHORITY

§23-18-306(5) The General Assembly finds and declares that it is vital that Colorado's higher education system is accessible and affordable for all Coloradans. The institutions' tuition policies are an important component of ensuring both the affordability and sustainability of Colorado's higher education system. With the expiration of tuition policies implemented pursuant to recent legislation, it is imperative that the commission and the governing boards of state institutions of higher education, as well as other interested parties, work cooperatively to structure an ongoing tuition policy for the state. Therefore, by November 1, 2015, the commission shall submit to the joint budget committee and to the education committees of the House of Representatives and the senate tuition policies that ensure both accessible and affordable higher education for Colorado's residents. The tuition policies must also reflect the level of state funding for institutions and the need of each institution to enhance the quality of educational programs and offerings and strengthen the financial position of the institution. The commission shall develop the tuition policy recommendations in consultation with the governing boards of the institutions and other interested parties using an inclusive and transparent process.

ATTACHMENT(S):

- Working Draft Document on Tuition Policy Recommendation Development