

# Technical Incentive Funding Model Task Force

Meeting Notes – October 10, 2013

---

The Technical Incentive Funding Model Task Force met Thursday, October 10, 2013 at The Evergreen State College. Meeting attendees included:

Carol Diem, University of Washington  
Jane Sherman, Washington State University  
Colin Ormsby, Eastern Washington University  
Marc Webster, Washington Student Achievement Council  
Melissa Beard, Education Research & Data Center, Office of Financial Management  
Paul Francis, Council of Presidents  
John Carmichael, The Evergreen State College  
Ann Anderson, Central Washington University  
Steve Vanderstaay, Western Washington University  
Paula Moore, Budget Division, Office of Financial Management  
Cherie Berthon, Budget Division, Office of Financial Management

## **Welcome**

Cherie Berthon opened the meeting and welcomed everyone.

## **Meeting Notes from September 12<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup>**

Task Force members reviewed notes from the last two meetings. Minor changes were made to correct incomplete sentences and the notes were approved for posting to the Task Force website.

## **Agenda**

The agenda was reviewed and no substantive changes were made.

## **Baseline Funding**

Members discussed the challenges inherent in proposing a baseline for higher education funding, including the multiple notions of 'baseline' that have been put forth in recent years. Elements discussed include:

- Statute currently marks the baseline at 60% percentile of per student funding among Global Challenge States.
- Maintenance level is a common synonym for baseline.
- Data from IPEDS and SHEEO rankings provide other potential statistics for consideration.
- Funding ratios of 50% state funding/50% tuition revenues is another option that has been introduced.
- Some states have a "baseline" in their higher education funding formulas that preserve core services, with performance funding as an additive component.
- An aspirational goal to move Washington out of the bottom tier for per-student funding.
- Looking at aspirational goals that include a per-student funding goal introduces the potential to move Washington to a per-student funding model. The current block-grant approach has some advantages.

The starting point for performance funding data was discussed. While earlier conversations gravitated toward a 3-year average, some advocated the advantages of a 2-year average. The OFM Dashboard schedule will set the beginning point.

### **Review of Dashboard Statistics**

Melissa Beard populated a spreadsheet with four years of dashboard data from the metrics discussed at the Task Force's last meeting. Most members were comfortable with the data, but some institutions had reconsidered their metrics based on the data.

Some members confirmed their choice to use only numbers (i.e. number of degrees); others are including both percentages and numbers. Several agreed that percentages were meaningless without the associated numbers.

A few metrics are not present in the Dashboard at this time, particularly outcomes for first-generation students. Evergreen would like to capture non-traditional age students in its underrepresented student category. CWU wants include outcomes for transfer students.

Staff and members will continue to work on refining the menu of metrics. Cherie agreed to develop a revised menu with all institutions' data on a single page. Discussion of institution-specific metrics was held until the menu was revised to reflect new feedback.

### **Space Utilization**

Each of the agencies and institutions around the table offered up a representative to serve on a workgroup exploring space utilization metrics. OFM agreed to convene the workgroup and have feedback for the next Task Force meeting.

### **Modeling**

While there had been discussion of developing a performance funding model in the earliest meetings of the Task Force, several members questioned whether their current thinking lent its self to a traditional model. After discussion, the group agreed it was organizing its ideas around a process more than a model.

### **Final Report**

Cherie passed out a draft report outline for the members review. No immediate changes were made, but members appreciated having a starting point to work from. OFM staff agreed to compile slides to help illustrate the key components of the Task Force's performance funding proposal.

### **Next Meeting**

The Task Force will meet again on October 24th at the University of Washington.