



THE STATE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT / THE UNIVERSITY OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK / ALBANY, NY 12234

To: Higher Education Committee

From: Joseph P. Frey

Subject: Developing the Regents 2012-2020 Statewide Plan for Higher Education: Continuing to Develop the Issues

Date: December 27, 2010

Authorizations:

SUMMARY

Issue for Discussion

Should the Board of Regents refine or add to the issues identified at the December meeting as part of the basis for the Bulletin of the Statewide Plan for Higher Education (for which approval will be sought in April 2011)?

Reason(s) for Consideration

Required by State statute.

Proposed Handling

This matter will come before the Higher Education Committee at its January 2011 meeting for continuation of the discussion at the December 2010 meeting.

Background Information

The Regents Statewide Plan for Higher Education is one of the key documents focusing New York's 270 public, independent, and proprietary higher education institutions on priority concerns and objectives. It provides for the Board of Regents and the State's colleges and universities the opportunity to plan strategically in addressing critical issues in higher education. The Education Law charges the Board of Regents to specify, by April 2011, the nature of the information, plans, and recommendations to be submitted by CUNY, SUNY, and independent and proprietary institutions in their long-range master plans; describe statewide needs, problems, societal conditions, and interests of the citizens, and their relative priorities, on which those plans should focus; and provide appropriate supporting information. At its December meeting, the

Committee identified the elements below as issues for the next Statewide Plan. In addition, the description of the Statewide Plan requirements appended to the December item is attached.

Tentative List of Issues for Inclusion in the Bulletin of the 2012 Statewide Plan for Higher Education

Strengthen Connections among Parts of The University of the State of New York

- Colleges could provide more opportunities for online education to the P-12 system, especially online college-level courses in middle and high schools. New York higher education institutions have done well with online programs, but could provide more for use in P-12 schools. This would strengthen the linkages between colleges and P-12, benefit P-12, and promote college readiness.
- How can colleges further the education of students who prepared in career and technical fields at the secondary level?
- Focus on the continuum of education through the university level, and identify any gaps or missing links. Work with the P-12 educational community on defining college readiness and assist students in P-12 to meet this standard. Encourage more graduate-level education.

Strengthen Connections between Higher Education and Other Parts of the State's Social and Economic Structure

- Strengthen higher education institutions' connections with business and the world of work.
- Challenge higher education institutions to assist with the Regents goal of career readiness. Encourage institutions in all sectors, not just the proprietary sector, to identify realistic job opportunities for their graduates. Identify mechanisms for dealing with disconnects.
- Increase relationships between institutions of higher education and business and industry to support both research and comprehensive executive training programs. Increase inter-institutional cooperation to do so.
- Enlist the business community, unions, etc., as partners to publicize college opportunities and the connection to work in a big media push. Get business to fund advertising that will get the population better informed about need for college education.

Differentiate Missions in Higher Education

- Differentiate in the Statewide Plan among different types of higher education institutions for the purpose of encouraging them to address the issues in ways appropriate to their individual missions.

- Is there a distinction between community and four-year colleges and should there be? What is the role of community colleges in career preparation? Is there a difference with four-year institutions? Define the roles that community colleges and four-year institutions play in career preparation.

Improve Access, Quality, and Performance of Higher Education

- How can higher education institutions embrace technology to reach a broader segment of the population? Challenge them to do so.
- Improve student retention and graduation rates.
- Get adults back into higher education. What programs will people want? Georgetown prediction of growth in New York jobs over the next ten years that will require a college education. We need to challenge New York institutions to respond. New York is 43rd out of 50 states in the education of adults and New York is facing a declining population.
- Seek innovation in financial assistance to accommodate longer-term completions.
- Continue to strengthen higher education access, services, and outcomes for New Yorkers with disabilities.

Address Out-of-State Institutions' Interest in Serving New Yorkers

- What should be the Regents policies on the entry of out-of-state institutions into New York?
- Should we regulate purely online education offered to New Yorkers who are employees of national companies under contract with those companies?
- What additional programs should New York institutions offer to reduce the need for out-of-state institutions to seek permission to operate or establish new institutions in New York State?

Recommendation

It is recommended that the Committee continue the discussion of issues begun at its December meeting.

What does the Education Law Require?

Content of the Plan. Section 237 of the Education Law requires that the Statewide Plan include certain elements, authorizes the inclusion of other elements at the Regents discretion, and encourages an overall approach to planning.

1. Required. The Statewide Plan **shall** incorporate the SUNY and CUNY Master Plans, to the extent the Regents approve them, and “all available information with respect to the plans and facilities of independent institutions of higher education.” Certain content of the SUNY and CUNY master plans is specified in statute. In addition, the Regents may specify information, plans, and areas of recommendation to be included (see below).

In effect, Section 237 contemplates the Regents identifying statewide needs, societal conditions, and the interests of New Yorkers and calling on SUNY, CUNY, and independent institutions to address them. The Statewide Plan harmonizes the SUNY and CUNY master plans with one another and with the plans of independent institutions. The SUNY and CUNY plans are subject to the Regents approval; the plans of independent institutions are not subject to approval.

The Statewide Plan also **shall** include a summary of all recommendations in the preceding Plan, and subsequent amendments, stating the action taken and progress towards achievement.

2. Authorized. In addition, the Statewide Plan **may** include plans with respect to “other matters not comprehended within the plan of the state and city universities,” including but not limited to:
 - Improving institutional management and resources,
 - Instruction and guidance programs,
 - Financial assistance to students, and
 - Extension of educational opportunities.

However, the law does not require that the Plan include such matters; that remains within the Regents discretion.

3. Encouraged. Section 237 states that the “purposes of planning” (not the Statewide Plan as a document) **should**:
 - a. Define and differentiate the missions and objectives of higher education.
 - b. Identify the needs, problems, societal conditions, and interests of the people of the State of New York to which programs of higher education may most appropriately be addressed.
 - c. Define and differentiate the missions and objectives of institutions of higher education.

d. Develop programs to meet the needs, solve the problems, affect the conditions and respond to the public's interests by:

- (1) Setting goals.
- (2) Describing the time required to meet those goals.
- (3) Identifying the resources needed to achieve the goals.
- (4) Establishing priorities.

e. Be in sufficient detail to enable all participants in the planning process, representatives of the people and the people themselves to evaluate the needs, objectives, program proposals, priorities, costs and results of higher education.

f. Optimize the use of resources.

g. Evaluate program effectiveness.

However, the law does not require that the Statewide Plan exhibit these attributes.

Planning Bulletin. Section 237 requires that, before developing or revising the Statewide Plan, the Regents **shall** request master plans for SUNY, CUNY, and each independent institution. (Such request usually is called the Bulletin of the Statewide Plan.) It **requires** that the request be issued by April 25, 2011, and that it **shall**:

- Specify the nature of the information, plans, and recommendations to be submitted;
- Describe statewide needs, problems, societal conditions, and interests of the citizens, and discuss their priorities; and
- Provide appropriate information that may be useful in formulating such plans.

Transmittal Deadline. As modified by Section 137 of Chapter 82 of the Laws of 1995, Section 237 **requires** the Regents to adopt or revise the Statewide Plan and transmit it to the Governor (for approval) and to the Legislature on or before November 1, 1964, and every eight years thereafter (i.e., November 1, 2012).

What is the Timetable for Developing the Next Plan?

- **January 10-11, 2011.** Committee continues discussion of priorities/goals/objectives for the 2012 Statewide Plan, which will be the basis for the Bulletin of the 2012 Statewide Plan.
- **January - March 2011.** Department gathers background information and suggestions. Statutory Commissioner's Advisory Council discusses preliminary priorities/goals/objectives and advises the Regents. Board continues to formulate/revise priorities/goals/objectives for the Bulletin of the 2012 Plan.
- **April 4-5, 2011.** Board approves Bulletin for distribution to the field.
- **April 25, 2011.** Department transmits Bulletin to all degree-granting institutions,

requesting development of master plans for 2012-2020 (statutory date).

- **Prior to June 1, 2012.** Association of Proprietary Colleges and the Commission on Independent Colleges and Universities schedule receipt of individual institutional master plans, with copies to the Department.
- **June 1, 2012.** Department receives SUNY and CUNY master plans (statutory date) and consolidated master plans for the independent and proprietary sectors.
- **Subsequent to June 1, 2012.** The Regents continue to formulate the 2012 Statewide Plan, including the sector master plans, with the advice of the statutory Commissioner's Advisory Council and input from the institutions and public hearings. Plan adopted in October 2012 (statutory date).