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SC Commission on Higher Education
Annual Accountability Report
1994-95

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SOUTH CAROLINA COMMISSION ON HIGHER EDUCATION

Annual Accountability Report

Fiscal Year 1994-95

MISSION STATEMENT

The South Carolina Commission on Higher Education is a higher education coordinating board consisting of eighteen lay members supported by a professional staff. Broadly defined, its mission is to serve the citizens of the State by promoting quality and efficiency in the state system of higher education. More specifically, its purpose is to develop plans; conduct studies; approve new academic programs; administer certain state, regional, and federal programs; make recommendations concerning requests for appropriations and capital improvements; promote access to higher education; and carry out those other duties required by its enabling legislation or other statutes. Its efforts are directed toward the promotion of a clearer understanding of and greater unity among all institutions of higher learning, both public and private, in the interest of serving the higher education needs of South Carolina.

(Approved by the Commission on Higher Education on January 4, 1990)

PROGRAM INITIATIVES AND OUTCOMES

The Commission on Higher Education utilizes an annual work plan to accomplish its mission and to identify and pursue programatic goals and objectives within each of its administrative divisions. The Commission's six administrative divisions are academic affairs; access and equity and special projects; facilities; finance; licensing and veterans education; and, planning, assessment, and vocational/technical education. Moreover, during the 1994-95 fiscal year, the Commissioner of Higher Education pursued goals specific to his office in addition to those that he administers through the six agency divisions.

Outlined below are the major initiatives undertaken as part of the 1994-95 Commission work plan and, described briefly, the outcomes of each initiative. The initiatives are organized by the Commission's respective administrative divisions.

I. Agency Efforts Administered by the Commissioner

A. Improved Trustee-Commission Communications

Outcome: This initiative was undertaken to achieve more effective communications between members of the Commission and members of the Boards of Trustees of the institutions. A joint conference of the Boards of Trustees, the Commission, and the college and university presidents was held at South Carolina State University in December 1994. Improved dialogue among all parties resulted from the joint meeting. The meeting also provided a venue for the identification and discussion of the primary issues facing South Carolina higher education.

B. Communications with the Council of Public University and College Presidents

Outcome: The Commissioner requested and received an agenda appearance with the Council of Public University and College Presidents to review matters of concern to the Presidents and the institutions, including regulatory procedures and reporting requirements that might be problematical for the institutions.

II. Academic Affairs Division

A. Consult and collaborate with the Advisory Committee on Academic Programs and other appropriate institutional representatives to revise the Commission's policies and procedures for the approval of new programs

Outcome: Completed

B. Consult and collaborate with the Advisory Committee on Academic Programs, institutional effectiveness staff, and other appropriate institutional representatives to develop and implement a revised review process for existing programs that is integrated with and complementary to the Commission's institutional effectiveness processes

Outcome: Completed

C. Conduct and analysis of the manpower aspects of health professions in the State under the auspices of the Governor's Health Policy and Data Integration Project -- Phase II

Outcome: Ongoing

D. Work with the Library Directors' Forum to assure

- B. Work with each of the State's colleges and universities to ensure the consistent and accurate reporting of Commission on Higher Education Management Information Systems (CHEMIS) facilities data

Outcome: Substantial work completed during 1994-95 fiscal year. This initiative is ongoing.

- C. Develop and present policy recommendations on classroom and laboratory utilization and station occupancy for the review and approval by the Commission

Outcome: Not completed -- will be presented to the Commission on Higher Education in April or May of 1996

- D. Review and refine the appropriation funding formula to determine building and maintenance requirements, to be completed no later than April, 1995

Outcome: Completed

State Postsecondary Review Program (SPRE)

- A. Compile and publish implementation manual for SPRE Standards

Outcome: Completed

- B. Initiate institutional SPRE Reviews

Outcome: Not completed -- SPRE Program discontinued by action of the Federal Government

- C. Implement the Statewide complaint system

Outcome: Commission staff developed the system but it was not implemented due to discontinuation of SPRE

- D. Conduct training sessions/workshops for institutional personnel to familiarize them with the State Postsecondary Review Process (SPRP)

Outcome: Completed

- E. Conduct SPRE institutional visits

Outcome: Not completed due to discontinuation of SPRE

- F. Survey SPRE-related information systems

Outcome: Completed

- G. Develop plan to implement "cost sharing" provision

through implementation of the revised Program guidelines as contained in "A Fresh Approach."

B. Implement plan to increase parental participation in the Higher Education Awareness Program (HEAP)

Outcome: A plan was developed in consultation with the HEAP Advisory Committee and, as a result, a parents video was created to impart HEAP goals and the importance of attaining postsecondary education to participants at eighth grade school parent meetings.

C. Visit HEAP partner schools (public schools with eighth grades) to respond to questions and to gain further information concerning the implementation and improvement of the Program

Outcome: Completed

D. Solicit additional funding for higher education awareness through the National Early Intervention Scholarship and Partnership Program

Outcome: A grant proposal was submitted to attain funds through the National Early Intervention Scholarship and Partnership Program.

E. Review institutions' Access and Equity plans in accordance with new guidelines as established within the revised Access and Equity Program policy book, "A Fresh Approach"

Outcome: Completed

F. Establish priorities and guidelines for 1994-95 Access and Equity Competitive Grants Program; implement Competitive Grants Program

Outcome: Completed

G. Implement Graduate Incentive Scholars Program in accordance with new guidelines in "A Fresh Approach"

Outcome: Completed

IV. Facilities Division

A. Analyze data and prepare guidelines for colleges and universities to prepare Deferred Maintenance Plans (DMPs) for Commission on Higher Education Review and Approval

Outcome: Completed

Outcome: Started -- delayed by Federal Government

V. Finance Division

- A. Consult and collaborate with the Finance Officers' Advisory Committee, the Appropriations Formula Advisory Committee, and the Advisory Committee on Information Resources in examining the structure, purpose, operating and consulting functions of the committees; and, ways to accommodate or further reduce institutional reporting burdens

Outcome: Completed

- B. Continue the Student/Faculty Ratio Study

Outcome: Completed

- C. Implement the Internet at the Commission on Higher Education

Outcome: Completed

VI. Licensing and Veterans Education Division

- A. Continue implementation of law and regulations governing licensing of non-public institutions including the staggering of renewals, implementing revised supervision schedules, developing internal policies, procedures and documentary requirements

Outcome: Completed

- B. Draft proposed changes to existing implementing regulations for nonpublic institutions in order to refine or clarify certain portions

Outcome: The draft proposal was completed

- C. Draft regulations to implement a student tuition recovery trust fund; present the regulations to institutions for comment as required by the State's Administrative Procedures Act; and, file the regulations with the General Assembly for enactment

Outcome: Did not complete prior to end of fiscal year

- D. Continue coordination of Commission staff activities as a member of the Military Assistance Council. Establish and orchestrate the activities of the Military Assistance Council's Education Subcommittee

Outcome: Completed all that was required during the fiscal year. This is an ongoing effort.

- E. Pursue approval and funding (through the United States Department of Defense, or others) and administer the teacher paraprofessional training and placement program

Outcome: Received \$300,000 two-year contract with the U.S. Department of Defense to administer the program.

- F. Develop and implement an outreach for apprentice and other on the job training. Develop and disseminate a brochure with program details

Outcome: Completed

VII. Planning, Assessment, and Vocational/Technical Education Division

Planning and Assessment

- A. Consult and collaborate with the Advisory Council on Planning in examining the structure, purpose, operation and consultative functions of the committee, and, ways to accommodate or further reduce new institutional reporting burdens

Outcome: Completed

- B. Provide support for the Blue Ribbon Committee on Funding of Quality Initiatives and for the Task Force on School-to-Work Initiatives

Outcome: Completed

- C. Prepare, with the assistance of the South Carolina Higher Education Assessment Network, two additional publications describing outstanding approaches to the assessment of various areas of institutional effectiveness

Outcome: Completed

- D. Continue evaluation, assessment, and feedback on institutional planning and assessment reports, with special attention to mission statements and with identification of statewide policy issues

Outcome: Completed

- E. Participate in the development and seek approval of the third update of the State Plan

Outcome: Completed

State Occupational Training Advisory Committee

- A. Assemble an advisory group which will include representatives from existing service delivery systems and programs as well as representatives from House and Senate Education Committees to consider the findings of the comprehensive survey modeled after that used for the March 15, 1985, Report of the Job Training Coordination Committee on Job Training Systems in South Carolina. Develop a report and recommendations for submission to the Governor and General Assembly

Outcome: An advisory committee was formed to draft legislation with regard to service delivery systems and programs

- B. Complete assessment of the cooperation, coordination, and articulation between secondary vocational education and postsecondary technical education, including the review of articulation agreements and other memoranda of agreement

Outcome: Completed

Contract Services for the Council on Vocational and Technical Education

- A. Study and comment on the adequacy or inadequacy of State action in implementing the State Plan for Vocational-Technical Education for the last three year period

Outcome: Completed in late 1995

- B. Study and report to the State Board of Education on the extent to which individuals who are members of special populations are provided with equal access to quality vocational education

Outcome: Completed

- C. Complete a major study that will evaluate the adequacy and effectiveness of the delivery systems assisted under the Perkins Act and the Job Training Partnership Act and evaluate the extent to which vocational education, employment and training programs in the State represent a consistent, integrated, and coordinated approach to meeting the economic needs of the State, reporting and making recommendations to appropriate individuals and agencies

Outcome: Completed

D. Observe and/or participate in at least six State Department of Education site visits and evaluations of vocational programs under the Perkins Act and at least four State Department of Education site visits of Tech Prep Consortia

Outcome: Completed

implementation of the electronic network among libraries through appropriate selection and installation of necessary technological equipment, purchase of databases for statewide use, and development of a plan to expand the electronic network to encompass the independent institutions as well as continue work with the Forum to implement the other component parts of the vision of academic libraries as a Statewide resource

Outcome: Ongoing

- E. Develop a State Plan and guidelines for proposals eligible for higher education funding consistent with the new Federal Regulations for the Eisenhower Professional Development Program as reauthorized and in conjunction with the State Department of Education

Outcome: Completed

- F. Assist with planning and implementation of a grant from the Education Commission of the States to develop a policy framework for educational reform that connects the pieces of the pre-kindergarten through undergraduate collegiate system, links the various projects in a coherent fashion, strengthens relationships among projects, institutions, and agencies, and clearly states the goals and underlying principles of systemic educational reform

Outcome: Grant was prepared but not funded

- G. Implement Commission responsibilities assigned to it under the "South Carolina School-to-Work Transition Act of 1994"

Outcome: Completed

III. Access and Equity and Special Projects Division

- A. Consult and collaborate with Access and Equity Representatives and the Higher Education Awareness Program Advisory Committee in examining the structure, purpose, operation and consultative functions of the committees; and, ways to accommodate or further reduce institutional reporting burdens

Outcome: Access and Equity staff met with access and equity and Higher Education Awareness Program representatives and received no suggestions for modifying the structure, purpose, operation or consultative functions of the committees nor ways to accommodate or further reduce reporting burdens (the Access and Equity Program had already reduced reporting requirements)