

## **2010-2015 Master Plan Steering Committee April 23, 2010 Summary**

The Steering Committee met April 23, 2010, from 10:00-1:00 in the THEC offices. Dr. Rhoda, as chair of the Committee, opened the meeting with an update on a number of national and regional agenda focusing, like the Complete College Tennessee Act, on increased degree production. Those organizations include the Southern Regional Education Board, Complete College America, Lumina's Making Opportunity Affordable, and Achieve's College- and Career-Ready initiative. He also referenced Tennessee higher education's engagement with K-12 in the State's Race to the Top grant.

The April 23 agenda and all meeting materials are posted on the THEC Master Plan site at [http://tn.gov/moa/strGrp\\_MasterPlanComt.shtml](http://tn.gov/moa/strGrp_MasterPlanComt.shtml) .

THEC staff facilitated the discussion of the meeting agenda, which then turned to a draft set of assumptions framing the development of the Master Plan. These assumptions were derived in part from the Complete College Tennessee Act as well as other public policy and higher education efficiency concerns. The assumptions name the proposed outcomes-based formula and the revised Performance Funding quality assurance standards as primary mechanisms for carrying out the State's interest in seeing increased degree production. The discussion centered generally around the need to clarify statements about mission distinctions and how THEC and the systems will collaborate on the process of differentiation. Also, it was suggested that the assumptions document clearly state that tuition revenue, along with extramural support, will not be counted against institutions in the performance-based allocation of state appropriations. Finally, there were requests for clarification of the role and scope of a THEC-commission program supply/employer demand analysis in institutional academic program aspirations.

The UT Center for Business and Economic Research staff then described the model for the supply/demand study, responded to questions, and projected completion of the study for presentation at the July 2010 Commission meeting. Dr. Bill Fox, director of CBER, will present a similar update of the analysis at the April 2010 Commission meeting.

The Committee then heard status reports from the Master Plan working committees.

**Formula Review Committee.** Development of the funding formula is proceeding as the Formula Review Committee (FRC) has held discussions on the outcomes to include in the model, appropriate weighting factors for each outcome and recognition of student sub-populations. One specific point that is still being examined is whether or not the community colleges will each have a unique weighting structure or whether TBR can recommend one combined weighting structure that will be used across the system. The FRC and TBR are currently deliberating that issue and its ramifications. Next for FRC members and institutions is submission of feedback on the specific student sub-populations to include in the model. THEC staff estimate that by early to mid-summer a working draft of the new model will be ready to review that will keep higher education on schedule to utilize the new model for the 2011-12 budget recommendations, as required by the Complete College Tennessee Act.

**Performance Funding Advisory Committee.** The Scoring Subcommittee is meeting regularly to define scoring protocols related to qualitative indicators and productivity during the next month. The oversight Performance Funding Advisory Committee will convene in early June to

consider recommendations and finalize standards for the 2010-15 cycle. The status of deliberations is as follow:

- **General Education**
  - Revised the scoring of the General Education standard to include an institutional improvement component. Overall, general education assessment will be evaluated in two ways: (1) national norm comparison (10 points) and (2) institutional improvement (5 points).
  - Removed the option of mid-cycle assessment change due to the institutional improvement component.
  - Finalized the 2010-15 General Education Test Selection Form and distributed to campus for June 1 submission.
- **Major Field Assessment**
  - Revised scoring table to reflect overall point increase and align with the general education standard.
  - Identified the need to develop new test construction plan.
- **Accreditation/Program Review/Academic Audit**
  - Recommended frequency of program review/academic audit based on total number of active programs. Less than 50 academic programs – 5 year review; 50+ programs – 7 year review and 100+ programs – 10 year review.
  - Revised scoring table for undergraduate program review to reflect point increase
  - Revised scoring table for graduate program review/academic audit to reflect point increase (forthcoming).
  - Provided overview of the embedded certificate model and implications for accreditation and evaluation at the community colleges.

**MOA Adult Participation.** The committee is formulating recommendations for the Master Plan and is also assessing the opportunity to apply for an additional statewide Lumina grant to support replication of good practices for attracting and graduating additional adult students. THEC’s MOA liaison, Dr. Nate Johnson, will attend the April 29 THEC meeting and will consult with THEC and system office staff on the progression of the MOA initiative.

**Academic Affairs Committee.** The committee is addressing the requirements of the Complete College Tennessee Act regarding improved transfer and articulation, implementing dual admission, establishing a common course numbering system, and concentrating developmental instruction in the community colleges. TBR and UT have set up an Articulation Council to direct institutional and cross-system construction of common general education core and 19-hour pre-major path portability.

**Institutional Mission Profile Draft.** THEC staff next introduced a draft profile document for exhibiting institutional mission profiles for purposes of outcomes-formula weighting. It was stressed that the profiles do not supplant institutional narrative mission statements; rather, the profiles declare defining characteristics, starting with Carnegie Classification, that distinguish one institution from another. The profiles will stress institutional strengths in increasing degree production as key elements in formula distribution of appropriations. Discussions around the profiles will continue in the Formula Review Committee and in the Steering Committee.

**Master Plan Accountability Draft.** THEC staff then introduced a concept piece on Master Plan accountability and reporting for the committee to consider. The accountability table is intended to chart overall public higher education progress toward the 2015 goal of increased degree production and is not intended to set annual benchmarks for individual institutional degree production goals. The increase in degree production projected is based on an empirical student flow model anticipating the number of undergraduate degrees awarded. Such a projection will direct Tennessee toward the 2015 national state average in degrees awarded. Discussions followed regarding an interest in seeing the contributions of private institutions and proprietary institutions in raising the state's education attainment levels. Other comments suggested that THEC staff continue to explore appropriate efficiency measures for state higher education accountability. Additionally, it was suggested that the Committee carefully consider the best way to set reasonable degree production goals and communicate these goals to all stakeholders.

**May 21 Master Plan Draft.** THEC staff will develop a draft Master Plan for Steering Committee consideration. The draft will be distribution to the Committee May 21. After revision to address Committee recommendations, a second draft will be distributed to systems, campuses, the business community, and others for further review. A final Master Plan will be presented to the Commission at their July 2010 meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 1:00 pm.