

Minutes of the Education Achievement Council Meeting

January 23, 2014

BE IT REMEMBERED, that the Education Achievement Council (EAC) met in the Mississippi Community College 5th Floor Board Room in Jackson, Mississippi at 11:00 a.m. on January 23, 2014.

Council Members Present:

Mr. Ed Blakeslee, Trustee, MS Institutions of Higher Learning
Dr. Jim Borsig, President, Mississippi University for Women
Dr. Hank Bounds, Commissioner of Higher Education, MS Institutions of Higher Learning
Dr. Glenn Boyce, President, Holmes Community College
Mr. Lee Bush, Board Member, MS Community College Board
Dr. Eric Clark, Executive Director, MS Community College Board
Ms. Trecina Green, for Dr. Carey Wright, State Superintendent of Education
Chairman John Polk, Chairman, Senate Universities and Colleges Committee
Dr. Ronnie Nettles, President, Copiah-Lincoln Community College
Dr. Jesse Smith, President, Jones County Junior College

Council Members Not Present:

Dr. Rodney Bennett, President, University of Southern Mississippi
Chairman Eugene Clarke, Chairman, Senate Appropriations Committee
Mr. Chip Crane, Member, Mississippi Community College Board
Chairman Herb Frierson, Chairman, House of Representatives Appropriations Committee
Mr. Michael Jordan, Director of Division of Professional Development, MS Department of Mental Health
Chairman Nolan Mettetal, Chairman, House of Representatives Universities and Colleges Committee
Chairman John Moore, Chairman, House of Representatives Education Committee
Ms. Vicki Powell, representing Mr. Blake Wilson, Mississippi Economic Council
Ms. Robin Robinson, Trustee, MS Institutions of Higher Learning
Dr. Laurie Smith, Education Policy Advisor, Office of Governor Phil Bryant
Chairman Gray Tollison, Chairman, Senate Education Committee
Dr. Carey Wright, State Superintendent, Mississippi Department of Education

Others Present:

Mr. Henry Anderson, Webmaster, MS Institutions of Higher Learning
Mr. Eric Atchison, Institutional Research Analyst, MS Institutions of Higher Learning
Ms. Caron Blanton, Communications Director, MS Institutions of Higher Learning
Ms. La Shon Brooks, Chief of Staff, Mississippi Valley State University
Mr. Raul Fletes, Assistant Executive Director, MS Community College Board
Ms. Kim Gallaspy, Director of Legislative Services, MS Institutions of Higher Learning

Dr. Deborah Gilbert, Assoc. Executive Director, MS Community College Board
Dr. Joan Haynes, Assoc. Executive Director, MS Community College Board
Ms. Clotee Lewis, Coordinator of Public Affairs, MS Institutions of Higher Learning
Dr. Al Rankins, Deputy Commissioner for Academic and Student Affairs, MS Institutions of Higher Learning
Mr. Kell Smith, Communications Director, MS Community College Board
Mr. Pete Smith, Communications Director, MS Department of Education

I. Welcome

Dr. Jim Borsig and Dr. Jesse Smith welcomed members to the meeting.

II. Report on Community College Developmental Education Changes

Dr. Smith described the process by which the Mississippi Community College Board developed recommendations to the Community Colleges for changes in developmental education. Extensive research has shown that removing barriers in developmental education helps students succeed.

The new plan removes six courses from the uniform course numbering system, and combines course content from those six courses into four new courses, Beginning English, Beginning Reading, Intermediate English, and Intermediate Reading. The Community Colleges made an innovative decision to set uniform ACT placement sub scores for gateway courses. The colleges are building wrap-around services into the gateway courses to help students succeed. These changes allow the Community Colleges to place students into courses with the right amount of support.

Dr. Clark commended the tremendous work by the Community College Chief Academic Officers and Dr. Joan Haynes to develop the plan which has been adopted by the Community College Presidents. He added that establishing uniform cut scores is a significant step forward.

III. “Completing College: Blueprint Mississippi States”

Dr. Borsig presented a review of how Mississippi outcomes compare to the Blueprint Mississippi states. He collected information from the National Student Clearinghouse report (http://nscresearchcenter.org/wp-content/uploads/NSC_Signature_Report_4-StateLevel.pdf) to compare Mississippi to the Blueprint states. Data only includes students who begin at a four-year institution. A copy of Dr. Borsig’s PowerPoint presentation is attached to these minutes.

The report looked at six-year outcomes for students who:

- Started college at a four-year public institution;
- Were enrolled full-time;
- Were enrolled part-time;
- Had mixed enrollment;
- Were age 24 and younger; and
- Were age 24 and older.

In many cases where Mississippi trails the national average, the state is above or competitive with the outcomes in the Blueprint states. Because of limitations in access to Community College data, the report looks at outcomes for four-year public institutions only.

Mr. Blakeslee asked if data that includes Community Colleges will eventually be available. Dr. Borsig said it is possible to pull that data together from multiple sources now, and that the State Longitudinal Data System may be able to produce good data that includes all students in the next few years.

Dr. Bounds said he would like to have Dr. Borsig present this information to the IHL Board and suggested presenting it to Chairman Polk and Chairman Mettetal to figure out how to share with legislators who often have questions. The full analysis will show that Mississippi performs better than federal IPEDS data shows.

Mr. Blakeslee said business leaders often express concern about graduation rates. He added that a method to explain the rates to lay people would be beneficial.

Dr. Nettles asked if data from private universities is included in the Clearinghouse report.

Dr. Borsig said private non-profit institutions are reporting completion data. He said he is considering building a Mississippi Association of Colleges program around this topic to encourage more cooperation between the public and private sectors.

Dr. Borsig added that the data shows that the single greatest barrier to completion is being a first-generation college student. This factor trumps both ACT and high school GPA, and puts students at risk from day one.

IV. Update on Student Financial Aid Recommendation

Dr. Bounds gave a report on the EAC recommendations to Legislature regarding Student Financial Aid. The following is a summary of the legislation under consideration and its current status.

1. House Bill No. 113 - Higher Education Legislative Plan Grant Program; revise and clarify requirements related to income, residency, and documentation.
 - Simplifies the documentation required for the Higher Education Legislative Plan for Needy Students (HELP) grant by:
 - requiring only one year of residency documentation and one year of financial data;
 - requiring only the FASFA for financial documentation in lieu of tax forms; and
 - requiring high school counselors to certify a student's completion of the HELP core curriculum.
 - Raises annual adjusted gross income of the family from less than \$36,500 to less than \$46,500.
 - Aligns the application and document submission deadlines with those of other Student Financial Aid programs.
 - Introduced by Representative Nolan Mettetal.
 - Status: 1/7/14- referred to House Universities and Colleges committee.

2. House Bill No. 115 - MS Eminent Scholars Grant; revise eligibility requirements and limit awards to cost of attendance.
 - A Committee Substitute changed the language to make a student who attends an out-of-state college and then transfers back to an in-state university or community college eligible for the MS Eminent Scholars Grant.
 - No student shall receive a combination of student financial aid and the MS Eminent Scholars Grant that exceeds the cost of attendance as defined by the institution's Federal Pell Grant Budget.
 - Introduced by Representative Nolan Mettetal.
 - 1/22/14-approved by the House Universities and Colleges committee.
3. House Bill No. 425 - MS Resident Tuition Assistance Grants; delete prohibition of federal Pell Grant qualifiers from eligibility for.
 - Removes the Pell exclusion to make MTAG available to the state's neediest students.
 - Introduced by Representative Nolan Mettetal.
 - Status: 1/7/14- referred to House Universities and Colleges committee.
4. Senate Bill No. 2041 - MS Eminent Scholars Grant Program; add eligibility requirements for students who earn college credits at out-of-state schools.
 - Students who earn credits at institutions of higher learning located outside the state and who either (i) apply for awards but do not accept their initial awards, or (ii) receive initial awards but later do not accept renewal awards may reapply to receive awards during subsequent application periods occurring before the expiration of the third school year succeeding the year of their high-school graduation and before completing no more than thirty (30) credit hours at the out-of-state institution.
 - Introduced by Senator John Polk.
 - Status: 1/10/14- referred to Senate Universities and Colleges committee.
5. Senate Bill No. 2454 - Higher Education Legislative Plan Grant Program; revise and clarify requirements related to income, residency and documentation.
 - Simplifies the documentation required for the Higher Education Legislative Plan for Needy Students (HELP) grant by:
 - requiring only one year of residency documentation and one year of financial data;
 - requiring only the FASFA for financial documentation in lieu of tax forms; and
 - requiring high school counselors to certify a student's completion of the HELP core curriculum.
 - From July 1, 2014 and until June 30, 2015, an applicant shall be found to be in financial need if the family has a two-year average annual adjusted gross income of less than \$39,500 (currently \$36,500); plus \$5,000 for each additional child under the age of 21.
 - After June 30, 2015, an applicant shall be found to be in financial need if the family has a two-year average annual adjusted gross income of less than \$42,500 (change from currently \$39,500); plus \$5,000 for each additional child under the age of 21.
 - Introduced by Senator John Polk.
 - Status: 1/20/14- referred to Senate Universities and Colleges committee.
6. Senate Bill No. 2499 - Forgivable loan programs; clarify repayment terms and expand governing board.

- Consolidates code sections and creates a central authorizing body for all state aid programs.
- Changes Postsecondary Education Financial Assistance Board to consist of 9 members (currently 3) and 2 nonvoting advisory members.
 - Two appointed by IHL, one from its membership to serve for an initial four years and one institutional representative to serve for an initial three years;
 - Two appointed by the MCCB, one from its membership to serve for an initial period of three years and one institutional representative to serve for an initial period of two years;
 - Two appointed by the Governor, one to serve for an initial two years and one to serve for an initial period of one year;
 - Two appointed by Executive Director of the Mississippi Association of Independent Colleges and Universities, one association representative to serve for an initial period of two years and one institutional representative to serve for an initial period of one year.
 - One appointed by the Lieutenant Governor for an initial period of four years.
 - Chairmen of the Senate and House Universities and Colleges committees shall serve as nonvoting advisory members.
- Introduced by Senator John Polk.
- Status: 1/20/14- referred to Senate Universities and Colleges committee.

V. Plans for 2014

Dr. Borsig proposed bringing private institutions into the EAC's work so that the Council can present a full picture of graduation data for the state. Work will begin to develop a framework for accurately reporting graduation data for Mississippi.

The Student Financial Aid Study Committee will also continue to examine financial aid programs and develop future recommendations.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

*Completing College: A State Level
View of Student Attainment Rates*

National Student Clearinghouse: February 2013

Mississippi compared to Blueprint states

Completing College: A National View

National Student Clearinghouse: November 2012

Six Year Outcomes

Public 4 year	Total Completion Rate	First Completion at Starting Institution	First Completion at Different Institution	Still Enrolled	Not Enrollmed
US Overall	54.1	42.0	9.1 2.9	16.1	29.8
US Public 4	60.6	48.6	8.7 3.2	16.0	23.4
Mississippi	61.5	48.69	8.8 3.56	18.06	20.89

Definitions

- Cohort: Fall 2006 first-time entry
- First-time status: Not enrolled in four years prior and no degree or certificate prior to Fall 2006
- Full-time, part-time, and mixed enrollment
- Differentiated by student's age at first entry

State-level Results

- Institution where student entered; not residential home state
- Institutions submitting enrollment data since June 1, 2002 included
- Only Mississippi 4 year publics included

Data Coverage Levels

- Low: 65% to 79%
- Medium: 80% to 89%
- High: 90% or higher

Historical Coverage Levels

State	Coverage Level
Mississippi	Medium
Alabama	High
Arkansas	Medium
Florida	Medium
Georgia	Low
Kentucky	High
Louisiana	Medium
North Carolina	High
Oklahoma	Low
South Carolina	High
Tennessee	High
Texas	Low

Mississippi Coverage Rates

- Four year public:
 - historical rate: 89.4%
 - current rate: 100%
- Two year public:
 - historical rate: 44.4%
 - current rate: 95.8%
- Four-Year private nonprofit:
 - historical rate: 63.1%
 - current rate: 92.3%

Six Year Outcomes for Students Who Started at Four-Year Publics

State	Total Completion Rate	First Completion at Starting Institution	Still Enrolled	Not Enrolled
U. S. Overall	60.57	48.65	16.01	23.42
S. Carolina	71.52	56.30	11.79	16.69
N. Carolina	65.89	56.28	13.88	20.23
Mississippi	61.05	48.69	18.06	20.89

Six Year Outcomes

Full-Time

State	Total Completion Rate	First Completion at Starting Institution	Still Enrolled	Not Enrolled
U. S. Overall	80.97	70.96	4.18	14.85
S. Carolina	88.78	77.28	2.49	8.73
Florida	82.60	74.92	2.46	14.93
N. Carolina	82.43	74.07	4.17	13.40
Mississippi	79.31	68.57	6.38	14.31

Six Year Outcomes Part-Time

State	Total Completion Rate	First Completion at Starting Institution	Still Enrolled	Not Enrolled
U. S. Overall	18.95	15.53	11.24	69.81
N. Carolina	28.99	26.59	9.79	61.22
Mississippi	28.57	26.66	12.62	58.81
Georgia	25.31	21.90	12.08	62.60

Six Year Outcomes Mixed Enrollment

State	Total Completion Rate	First Completion at Starting Institution	Still Enrolled	Not Enrolled
U. S. Overall	46.83	32.08	27.58	25.59
Florida	54.57	42.69	20.30	25.13
S. Carolina	50.18		26.76	23.06
Texas		35.66	28.48	23.13
Georgia	49.53	34.69	25.82	24.65
Mississippi	40.13	24.89	33.41	26.47

Six Year Outcomes 24 and Younger

State	Total Completion Rate	First Completion at Starting Institution	Still Enrolled	Not Enrolled
U. S. Overall	63.02	50.17	16.47	20.51
S. Carolina	73.73	57.86	11.78	14.50
N. Carolina	66.93	56.83	14.22	18.85
Mississippi	62.68	49.27	18.10	19.21

Six Year Outcomes 24 and Older

State	Total Completion Rate	First Completion at Starting Institution	Still Enrolled	Not Enrolled
U. S. Overall	44.53	38.73	13.81	41.66
Texas	59.0	54.42	10.77	30.23
N. Carolina	55.10	50.54	10.24	34.66
Alabama	48.46		13.64	37.90
Mississippi		44.17	17.71	33.94