Commission on Higher Education and the Economy

Charge to the commission: “to improve the quality of our higher education system, increase efficiencies, eliminate unnecessary duplication, broaden the use of technology and determine how higher education can most efficiently support the state’s economic and add to our quality of life.”

The problems to the solved:
   a) an undereducated citizenry
   b) inadequate number of high-skill, high-wage jobs

Related problems:
   • lack of alignment between academic programs and economic priorities
   • unclear expectations and accountability
   • low aspirations and attainment
   • insufficiently coordinated education system
   • insufficient research capacity
   • untapped commercialization opportunities
   • outdated approach to financing (amount and alignment of funding)

Governor’s emphasis: Collaboration; focus on strengths; competition for quality
Economic development agenda is the Third Frontier agenda- focused on 5 areas that are considered Ohio’s core technology and competency areas:
   - advanced materials
   - biosciences
   - power and propulsion
   - information technology
   - instruments, controls and electronics

Committees:
   Economic competitiveness - capitalize on higher education’s full potential for spurring economic growth and strengthening Ohio’s economic competitiveness, with a clear emphasis on aligning higher education resources with, and in support of the state’s third frontier project. This is about growing talent and growing jobs.

   • Policy option #1: Provide competition and collaboration among educational institutions in the state to provide the education and training for state workforce needs

   • Policy option #2: Enhance the capabilities of the workforce
• Policy option #3: Use technology-based innovations to build Ohio’s competitive advantages in manufacturing, agriculture and service sectors

• Policy option #4: Better coordinate lobbying in Washington to increase federal research funds for Ohio

• Policy option #5: Increase state $ to be used to leverage federal dollars for applied and basic research in Third Frontier areas

• Policy option #6: Expand state funding that is already in place through the BOR and target those dollars to Third Frontier areas for investment

• Policy option #7: Provide incentives to stimulate investments in basic and applied research in Third Frontier areas

• Policy option #8: Promote investments in facilities, equipment and infrastructure to support university-based research and commercialization

• Policy option #9: Convene a consortium of tech transfer people at universities and with businesses and industries to evaluate strengths and weaknesses of tech transfer roles and relationships

• Policy option #10: Establish a tech transfer challenge fund to enhance the capabilities of universities

• Policy option #11: Promote entrepreneurship via facilities and activities on campuses

• Policy option #12: Support entrepreneurship of faculty and staff at universities and colleges

**Access and Success** - Ensure Ohioans have sufficient access to education and training beyond high school and that they complete certificates and degrees in a timely manner. Raise awareness of higher education, improve preparation in high school, ensure affordability and ensure that higher education meets the needs of students and employers.

• Policy option #1: Develop a marketing plan to increase awareness of HE and improve aspirations

• Policy option #2: Improve the connection between high school and higher education

• Policy option #3: Assure an adequate number of qualified math and science teachers
• Policy option #4: Reconstitute the Ohio Tuition Trust Authority College Advantage Savings

• Policy option #5: Some plan re: tuition caps – not yet finalized

• Policy option #6: Improve the many state financial aid plains into a single financial aid plan in the state
• Policy option #7: Increase the emphasis on need-based financial plans

• Policy option #8: Address the issue of financial aid for out-of-state and international students

• Policy option #9: target funds to attract students in high need areas for Ohio

• Policy option #10: Ask the BR to develop an audit of financial aid practices in the colleges and universities

• Policy option #11: Develop a common application form that is acceptable for all public colleges and universities

• Policy option #12: strengthened and streamline articulation agreements with and between institutions and across different education sectors

• Policy option #13: develop technology-based, self-paced certificate programs free of charge for returning adult learners

Delivering Results: The objective is to improve the return on investment in higher education. What is the role higher education is expected to lay in strengthening Ohio’s economic competitiveness. Allocate resources in alignment with state’s higher education needs and priorities. Provide appropriate levels of leadership, support and authority for Ohio’s system of higher education. Improve performance, enhance quality and use limited resources more effectively and hold institutions accountable for results that provide high value for investment of public dollars and meeting state priorities for need-based access, workforce development and economic development through research.

• Policy option #1: Convene a compact of statewide leadership to harness higher education’s full potential and an engine for growth of economic development

• Policy option #2: Increase the state’s investment in higher education contingent on improving productivity and efficiency

• Policy option #3: Revise the funding formula in line with state’s economic needs and priorities and functional differences and documented areas of excellence among the institutions
• Policy option #4: Review the funding sources from the BOR – e.g., Hayes, etc.

• Policy option #5: Share cost of community college or technical education among the state, local community and student

• Policy option #6: Review the role of the State’s Higher Education Funding Commission

• Policy option #7: Establish a cabinet level position in education reporting to the governor

• Policy option #8: Add two members of all boards of trustees who are non-residents of Ohio

• Policy option #9: Establish a statewide advisory panel to assist the governor in recruiting and appointing trustees on a merit basis

• Policy option #10: Provide state support for pilot programs to consolidate shared services among institutions

• Policy option #11: Create a multi-dimensional productivity and efficiency challenge to reward reduction of per-student costs while maintaining or improving quality

• Policy option #12: Create incentives for lowering costs of academic programs while maintaining or improving quality

• Policy option #13: Give authority to the BOR to remove funding for programs demonstrated to be unnecessarily duplicative and remove the right to offer the degree after a phase out period

• Policy option #14: Eliminate the requires for use of multiple prime contractors in capital projects

• Policy option #15: Determine if there are barriers to contracting and privatizing services – need a recommendation to remove such barriers?

• Policy option #16: Develop a tiered accountability framework that distinguished between state-level and institution-level goals and performance