

## Access & Affordability

Tuition

TOPS – Merit vs. Opportunity

1. If you lose it, pay back
2. If you leave Louisiana, pay it back
3. Raise standards

Tuition is low in Louisiana

Higher Education = market-based enterprise

Decouple TOPS from tuition

Decrease of state support requires more market-based

Open Statement – State needs to do its part – consider an overall move market-based, predictable funding/stability

Tuition – low

- tuition autonomy up to SREB average and Board of Regents' policy
- if not make it majority vote of legislature
- pay by credit hour
- encourage dual enrollment
- differential tuition/fees based on high cost programs and (not c) professional

TOPS/Needs based

- do more in Go Grants
- get to the “right” threshold to retain students and meet financial needs
- Go Grants focus on returning adult learner

TOPS

- decouple from tuition
- consider link to CPI or other index
- raise TOPS eligibility standards – GPA/ACT

Savings from TOPS to Go Grants

Differential Tuition stays with the program

Appropriations – predictable funding

State needs to do its part

Tuition raised but state support, too

TOPS set bar higher

Look at stipends – limit?

TOPS based on CPI

### Open Discussion

- standards are being raised in U.S. so higher education standards need to be increased
- both ACT and GPA are much too low
- 40% TOPS cancellation. If we raise standards the cancellations would decrease and we would therefore be able to afford more fully used TOPS Awards

- TOPS is merit based, it is not need based
- If TOPS is awarded we should strive to keep those students working in Louisiana
- If someone moves out of state after college, they should pay back a small percentage of their TOPS Award
- If they drop out of college, they should pay back the money wasted
- High cost programs such as Engineering, as opposed to low cost programs like English, net high profits after college, so it would be fair to charge extra fees for those classes
- Move to a market based tuition system where Legislators do not control tuition costs
- Legislators would be more agreeing if we compile our reforms with TOPS with our Go Grants reforms, therefore, our savings from the TOPS programs with our tougher standings will rollover to Go Grant program
- Differential tuition if implemented, the money should stay in the field that it was intended for, so that those programs can improve instead of the money getting piled into a "pot" somewhere
- The State use to fund 70% for higher education, but has reduced to 30% so they are not doing their part which is essentially why we are here
- Separate TOPS increases from tuition increase, and instead relate it to the Consumer Price Index, that way we are flexible with the economy, and then cap that amount

1A

- i) Tuition too low, change tuition, authority up to SREB standard, if not we make it a majority vote of  $\frac{1}{2}$  rather than  $\frac{2}{3}$  of legislature
- ii) Pay by credit hour
- iii) Encourage dual enrollment

## **Fiscal Stability**

- 1) It is vital that the state provide a stable and increasing funding base.
- 2) The state should increase its percentage of formula funding to 65%. There should be similar increases for specialized institutions.
- 3) Future tuition increases should be allowed to remain with the institutions and should not supplant state general fund dollars.
- 4) Tuition increases should be matched by proportional increases in state funding. The proportional match would create balance between increased costs and improved quality, making our institutions a better value.
- 5) State institutions should be allowed to hold in reserve a portion of their operating budgets for purposes of stability and working capital.
- 6) In order to create a stable funding base it is imperative that control of tuition be placed with management boards.
- 7) The state needs to honor its commitment to the GRAD act in order for our institutions to become more efficient and effective.

## **Tuition Strategies**

- A. Best way to ensure high cost, high demand programs continue to be offered?
  1. Have higher fees for higher cost courses in high demand programs
    - \*promote institutional scholarships and hardship waivers

\*to prevent fees from being a deterrent, provide return of investment (ROI) for those programs

\*school would have option, approved by the System Board

2. Encourage private sector investment in those area that directly benefit from these students from the program

B. What is the best way to protect the quality of educational service? Class size, quality of instruction, course offering.

1. Per credit our tuition.

\*guarantees dollars stay with student, and that course will be offered when needed

\*maintain TOPS paying for 12 hours a semester

C. What is the best way to promote increase completion rates and timely graduation?

1. Promote dual enrollment and its many benefits
2. Promote 15 hours for full-time student. Make 15 hours the norm
3. Make TOPS requirement 15 hours per semester
4. Fund at a level for support services (tutoring, counseling)
5. Revise TOPS so that reward money increases each year

D. What is the best way to ensure that the State's public postsecondary education institutions provide the workforce skills needed for students to survive in the current economy and for the State to meet its workforce needs?

1. Align curriculum to workforce needs and price appropriately
2. Communicate with workforce demands
3. Utilize state funds to address bottlenecks