

HIGHER EDUCATION STRATEGIC INFORMATION AND GOVERNANCE (HESIG) POLICY STEERING COUNCIL MEETING, OCTOBER 1, 2014 MEETING SUMMARY

HESIG's Policy Steering Council held its third meeting, by video/teleconference on October 1, 2014, 10:00- 11:30 AM. An agenda supporting the meeting is appended. Participating Council members included: Peter Caporilli, Carmen Jordan Cox, Daniel Douglas, Stanley Ellis, Darryl Greer, Martin Grogan, Rochelle Hendricks, Daniel Hurley, Dennis Jones, Michael Klein, Richard Novak, Herman Saatkamp, Sharon Schulman, Jane Wellman, Linda Wharton, John Wilson; and Pedro Santana, as a guest. Members unable to participate included: Robert Altman, Jessica Carey, David Hespe, Claudine Keenan, Harvey Kesselman, Larry Nespoli, Jon Regis, and David Wolfe.

Introductions

Darryl Greer introduced members and thanked the Council and Stockton colleagues for their strong support of the HESIG project, illustrated by two years of accomplishment, as illustrated in an agenda attachment.

Council Advice

The Council was asked to advise on emerging trends affecting college opportunity and accountability; a proposal to extend HESIG's policy advocacy agenda; and engaging trustees as a priority constituency. In brief summary, the Council's discussion and advice is as follows:

1. **Trends-** Dennis Jones, NCHEMS President, provided an overview of major trends affecting higher education and HESIG's work. He highlighted several categories of issues including:
 - Addressing the challenges of college affordability, student debt, and reform of student financial aid;
 - National legislative interest in college "pay forward" proposals (e.g. OR and NJ), which may, if funded, financially threaten college access to four-year colleges, especially for low-income students;
 - Pressure on colleges to focus, in many states, on declining enrollment and tuition revenue, with the expectation of stagnant or declining state revenue, even with economic recovery;
 - Growing interest in competency- based education, and the need to grow policy tools to support its development.

Stockton President Herman Saatkamp commented on the funding strains colleges face, including the effect of increasing stress on public pension funds, and the effect on states funding colleges, as well as emerging enrollment challenges, especially facing community colleges in New Jersey. He suggested that these challenges requires colleges to build stronger financial and educational partnerships; and that furthermore, college leaders must think ahead, be realistic, and work together to develop multiple means of responding to challenges.

2. **Proposal to Extend HESIG's Policy Advocacy-** In response to the HESIG proposal to create a permanent New Jersey Business Higher Education Roundtable, to endorse and advocate state-

level and campus policy reforms, in partnership with many other organizations, Council discussion and advice revolved around the following issues:

- Jane Wellman suggested that a principal focus of the proposal should be on “value.” She and other members suggested that HESIG take an encompassing look at value from within, and external to higher education, considering revenue, cost and price issues on one hand, and value- added outcomes on the other. Such an approach would require considering many facets of college value, defining both public and private benefits, the long-term sustainability of emerging business models to support colleges, and outcomes connected to a broader public agenda.
- Several members suggested that additional empirical research by HESIG would help to build strong partnerships needed to succeed on the roundtable proposal. Additionally, Peter Caporilli suggested that HESIG might consider building a dues paying association of concerned citizens and organizations to advocate policy reform, and to align public needs with the business community support.
- Dennis Jones added that HESIG should not be shy in its policy advocacy, and should partner with others to build a NJ vision for sustainable policy change.

3. Engaging Trustees- Council members concurred that trustees are a special constituency to engage in HESIG’s proposed work. Several members pointed out that:

- Trustees are a special constituency with dual roles as individuals governing colleges, and as business, community and opinion leaders outside of higher education. According, Dan Hurley pointed out they are critical to internal policy reform, and also to building stronger alliances with others supporting higher education.
- Herman Saatkamp, John Wilson, and Richard Novak, suggested that HESIG identify topics on which trustees may need information, better to understand and to act on policy initiatives; survey them, and provide answers to their questions. By adding more empirically-based information and policy tools for trustees other constituencies, a more dynamic agenda could be developed and sustained.
- Mike Klein suggested that HESIG follow up with NJ Higher Education Secretary Hendricks to assist on a proposal for a NJ Trustee Summit.

4. Other Issues- Peter Caporilli suggested that HESIG consider studying future funding of colleges, such as proposals for single-price degree models. Mike Klein suggested further discussion of campus sexual assault policy, an issue of growing state and national interest, and effect on public trust. Martin Grogan indicated that future HESIG newsletters might include information on a single “hot” topic of interest that may benefit from more objective information, or professional insight.

5. Next Meeting- The Council will meet next during spring 2015, perhaps in April or June, at Stockton/Sea View Resort.