Board Statement on Commitment to Quality

Background
At its May 12, 2003 meeting, the Joint Boards Working Group developed a joint statement describing the important link between enrollment and funding in public postsecondary education in Oregon, and reflecting the commitment of both the Board of Higher Education and the Board of Education to maintaining quality in the relationship between state funding and enrollment. The sustainable enrollment/funding levels were set at 2002-03 for the Oregon University System and 2001-02 for Oregon’s community colleges.

The draft statement is displayed below:

Joint Boards of Education Commitment to Quality

The link between enrollment and funding has a direct relationship to the quality of instruction offered by the public two-year and four-year colleges and universities in Oregon. In the absence of a state commitment to sustain quality in our postsecondary education systems, further declines in state funding will occur without regard to the quality of instruction offered.

By the 2003-04 fiscal year, both the State Board of Education and the State Board of Higher Education will implement policies setting maximum capacity levels of funded enrollment, based on and indexed to the level of state funding per full-time equivalent (FTE) student that existed for community colleges in 2001-02 and for OUS institutions for 2002-03.

The Joint Boards of Education are committed to the quality of the postsecondary educational experience and intend to demonstrate, through this funded enrollment level policy, that a “sustainable enrollment level” can be identified and must be tied directly to the funding allocated to public postsecondary education in any given fiscal period.

OUS Statement on Additional Enrollment Supported by Tuition:

In furtherance of its responsibility for Systemwide tuition policy in the OUS, the State Board of Higher Education will assure that if a campus determines that it can enroll additional students beyond the limits of this enrollment-to-funding relationship—supported only by the tuition/fees of the enrollments—the institutions will take the necessary measures to assure that the quality of the student experience and the level of campus performance are maintained.
Staff Recommendation to the System Strategic Planning Committee
Staff recommends that the System Strategic Planning Committee approve the "Joint Boards of Education Commitment to Quality," including the OUS Statement on Additional Enrollment Supported by Tuition, and that the Committee recommend approval by the Board.

(Board action required.)