

From: Soura, Christian  
To: John Finan <finanj@bellsouth.net>  
Date: 7/18/2013 3:55:46 PM  
Subject: RE: Task Force on Accountability and Regulatory Reform for Higher Education

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Why do I always pick Golf & Lobster Week to reach out?

Here...I pasted the proposed text below. If you're OK with it as-is or just have a couple of minor tweaks, then hopefully you could sign-off by email at your convenience. If you think broader changes are in order, then we can arrange a call after your vacation. Thanks again.

CLS

Executive Order No. 2013-XX

WHEREAS, in recognition of the cultural, educational, and economic value of the public colleges and universities of this State, the General Assembly makes significant annual investments in these institutions; and

WHEREAS, the people of South Carolina are supportive of these investments, provided that these institutions demonstrate that this commitment is resulting in tangible benefits for the State; and

WHEREAS, public colleges and universities may best demonstrate their responsible stewardship of these funds through their performance, as measured against objective benchmarks; and

WHEREAS, a new method of allocating funds is required to ensure that public colleges and universities receive financial support from the State based upon the quality and effectiveness of the services they provide to South Carolina's students; and

WHEREAS, if public colleges and universities are to receive state appropriations based upon their performance, then institutions that demonstrate responsible fiscal stewardship and effective management should be granted greater autonomy to conduct their affairs; and

WHEREAS, the General Assembly has embraced the aforementioned principles by overwhelmingly passing Joint Resolutions endorsing these priorities in 2012 and 2013.

NOW, THEREFORE, I do hereby establish the Task Force on Accountability and Regulatory Reform for Higher Education ("Task Force") for the following purposes:

- (a) To develop recommendations for a new funding model that will improve accountability for South Carolina's public institutions of higher education
- (b) To propose specific, graduated forms of regulatory relief to which the institutions may gain access, based upon their effectiveness and prudent management

1. The Task Force shall be comprised of the following individuals or their designees, and shall meet at least monthly until the required report is completed:

Chairman of the Commission on Higher Education  
President of The Citadel  
President of Clemson University  
President of the College of Charleston  
President of Coastal Carolina University  
President of Francis Marion University  
President of Lander University

President of the Medical University of South Carolina  
President of South Carolina State University  
President of the University of South Carolina  
President of Winthrop University  
Chairman of the House Education and Public Works Committee  
Chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee  
Chairman of the Senate Education Committee  
Chairman of the Senate Finance Committee

- (a) The Governor shall appoint an additional at-large member.
- (b) The Chairman of the Commission on Higher Education shall serve as the Chairman of the Task Force.
- (c) The Commission on Higher Education shall provide staff support and other resources as necessary to carry out the directives of this Executive Order.

2. The Task Force is encouraged to structure its recommendations within the following framework:

- (a) Organization of the public colleges and universities of this State and the selection of peer institutions and benchmarks, based upon the Carnegie Classification of Institutions of Higher Education;
- (b) Evaluation criteria organized into four categories:
  - (1) degree completion;
  - (2) affordability and access;
  - (3) educational quality;
  - (4) economic development and institutional mission;
- (c) A five-year transition to a new funding model, which may preserve certain elements of current or former processes, in a streamlined and improved form;
- (d) Use of existing data sources and reporting mechanisms to the greatest practical extent;
- (e) A financial and regulatory incentive structure that promotes the objectives defined herein by rewarding institutions for achieving their missions.

3. No later than December 1, 2013, the Task Force shall submit a report to the Governor, the President Pro Tempore of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives which:

- (a) Suggests any appropriate revisions to the critical success factors and performance indicators established by Section 59-103-30;
- (b) Identifies specific indicators associated with each of the categories identified above, which would be appropriate for incorporation into a new funding model; for each indicator, the Task Force must identify prospective public or nonprofit sources of data that could be used to support the annual evaluation process;
- (c) Proposes degrees and measures of autonomy to be granted to institutions upon attainment of specific goals or thresholds.

Christian L. Soura  
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From: John Finan [mailto:[finanj@bellsouth.net](mailto:finanj@bellsouth.net)]  
Sent: Wednesday, July 17, 2013 6:32 PM  
To: Soura, Christian  
Subject: Re: Task Force on Accountability and Regulatory Reform for Higher Education

Hi Christian. I am in Maine but will be returning on Sat. If You Ned to talk before that let me know. I have my cell

with me. I could not open the executive order on my iPad.

Sent from my iPad

On Jul 17, 2013, at 2:22 PM, "Soura, Christian" <[ChristianSoura@gov.sc.gov](mailto:ChristianSoura@gov.sc.gov)> wrote:

General,

If you have a moment sometime this week, I'd like to discussed the attached (proposed) Executive Order with you. It essentially takes the Accountability-Based Funding language out of the joint resolution that never quite seems to make it to the finish line and inserts it into an Executive Order instead.

We're thinking about issuing it in a couple of weeks, but we wanted to take your temperature first, along with the presidents and the relevant committee chairs. I think a five-minute phone call would do the trick, if that works. Thanks.

CLS

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<(2013-07-17) ABF Executive Order (v02).pdf>