

### Descriptions of Potential Major Statewide Planning Studies

1) Appropriate Distribution of Enrollment in the Public Sector

This study would examine the proportions of undergraduate students enrolled in the two and four-year institutions relative to such proportions in this and other states. It would then attempt to identify optimal enrollments in the two sectors of South Carolina, taking into consideration costs and student readiness. The institutions will be requested annually to provide actual and projected enrollments for a five year period.

2) Incorporation of Quality Factors in the Funding Formula

This study would investigate ways of rewarding institutional quality in the formula. Institutions might, for example, receive bonuses in recognition of outstanding institutional effectiveness programs, or for achieving specialized accreditation in professional programs. The study would involve a review of similar efforts in other states as well as some creative thinking by our study group.

3) Review of State Funding and Institutional Spending Patterns

This study would examine questions that have arisen about how the colleges actually spend the funds that are allocated to them. For example, it would look at the cost of administration (or percentage spent on administration) in South Carolina institutions as compared to similar institutions in the region or nation. Similarly, it would examine such areas as faculty salaries, library expenditures, and maintenance. However, the study will not recommend or support loss of institutional autonomy in how lump sum appropriations are spent. Findings might be used to adjust the formula.

4) Conversion from Regional to National Peer Groups in the Formula

This study would determine the advisability of modifying the formula by using national rather than regional peer groups for faculty salaries. Assuming that such a change is advisable, national peer group institutions would be identified.

5) Space Use-Space Needs

This study would examine the amount and quality of space available on each college and university campus. The study would be concerned primarily with educational and general square feet, and attempt to identify which institutions have deficit or surplus space as determined from benchmark standards, as well as comparisons with peer group institutions.