

Recommendations of The
Commission on Higher Education
for the 1985-86 Appropriation Formula

1. Student/Faculty Ratios

The Commission on Higher Education recommends that the student/faculty ratios used in the formula be evaluated this fall by the Committee on Academic Affairs. Pending this evaluation, the Commission recommends that the past practice of adjusting by one, up or down, any ratios with differences of two or more be continued for the 1985-86 Formula.

2. Average Faculty Salaries

Every two years, faculty salary averages by discipline are collected from peer institutions in the other states. The faculty salary averages included in the draft 1985-86 formula are those received this year from the peer institutions. The Commission recommends that the peer group faculty salary averages be adopted for 1985-86. The peer group salaries will be increased by the percent base pay and merit increases (currently 8%) in the Appropriation Bill for 1984-85.

3. Instructional Support Percentages

Very little data on instructional support was received from the peer institutions, and comparisons with instructional support percentages used in formulas from other states did not justify changes. The Commission recommends, therefore, that the instructional support percentages used in the 1984-85 Formula be continued for 1985-86.

4. Graduate and First Professional Instruction

- a. Undergraduate and graduate instruction is currently supported by the formula for 9 months. Traditionally it has been the Commission's position that summer school should be self supporting. Undergraduate summer school is relatively controllable in that course offerings are predicted by projections of maximum enrollment. The majority of undergraduate students enrolled in summer school are either "making up" or "getting ahead" thus allowing an institution to "break even".

Graduate and First Professional education is very different and unique, however, in that:

1. Student enrollment does not decrease significantly during the summer session.
2. A large segment of graduate students are public school teachers who, for obvious reasons, find the summer session the most suitable to meet their recertification requirements or pursue advanced degrees.

3. Continuity, especially in the sciences, is most important at the graduate level. For example, complex research projects are usually required which are not start up, shut down, restart adaptable.

At the University of South Carolina, for example, summer graduate enrollment comprises approximately 60% of the fall graduate enrollment and approximately 30% of the combined fall/spring semesters enrollment. At Clemson these percentages are approximately 40% and 20% respectively. For institutions with substantial graduate enrollments in the summer semester, fees alone cannot support the higher cost graduate programs.

- a. The Commission recommends that graduate and first professional instruction be funded on an annual basis, provided no institution suffers a net decrease in 1985-86 as a result, and that undergraduate instruction be funded based on opening fall enrollment. The Commission also recommends that the graduate student credit hours divisors used in the Appropriation Formula be evaluated by the Committee on Academic Affairs with recommendations for the 1986-87 Formula.
- b. The Commission recommends that Step 4d of the Formula, adjustment for graduate assistant's salaries, be subtracted at the end of the formula calculation (the same as the adjustment for military faculty salaries) so that the support costs for these salaries can be included in the calculation.
- c. The University of South Carolina, Clemson, and Winthrop have the largest percentages of out of state graduate enrollment. These institutions do not charge these students out-of-state rates because of competition with institutions in other states for graduate students. A study conducted by Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University in March, 1984, entitled "Graduate Charges, Waivers, and Assistantship Stipends" shows that all of the 33 institutions which responded practice some form of fee adjustment for graduate students. Most charge resident rates to non-resident graduate students. A copy of this study is available for reference in the Commission Office. The Commission recommends the percent out-of-state enrollment used in the Revenue step of the Formula apply to undergraduate and first professional enrollment only.

5. Academic Support

The primary functions of an institution are Instruction, Research, and Public Service. Currently the formula calculates academic support on Instruction only, although there are academic support costs associated with both Research and Public Service. The Commission recommends that the Research and Public Service steps of the Formula be included in the calculation of Academic Support Other.

6. Revenue Step (Min/Max)

The Commission recommends that the Revenue Step of the formula be increased from 17% to 18% (S.C. State 9%, USC School of Medicine and MUSC 5%) plus the percent out-of-state enrollment. This percent will be adjusted upward, in 1% increments each year, until it reaches 20%. At that time, providing full formula funding is continued, a maximum would be set with the minimum being 20%.

7. First Professional Credit Hour Divisors

- a. The divisor currently used for first professional FTE students is 15 credit hours and applies to Law only. Dr. Harry Lightsey, Dean of the Law School at USC, has requested that this divisor be changed to 14 credit hours since 14 is the number of credit hours per semester required by the American Bar Association for the three year program. The Commission recommends that the first professional credit hour divisor for Law be changed to 14.
 - b. The first professional disciplines of Medicine and Dentistry require 20 hours per semester. Since a credit hour divisor has never been formally established for these disciplines, the Commission recommends that a first professional credit hour divisor of 20 be established for Medicine and Dentistry.
8. The Commission believes that a more thorough analysis of alternative methods for funding Library Support is necessary before recommending changes. The Commission, therefore, recommends that the Library step of the formula not be changed for 1985-86 and that the staff provide additional information for possible use in the 1986-87 Formula. The Commission believes that the Student Services step of the Formula, as it relates to medical and dental education, generates a reasonable amount of support. The Commission recommends no change at this time.