Nowhere To Go But Up: Highlights from the 2012 Legislative Sessions

WICHE’s Legislative Advisory Committee Meeting

September 11, 2012
Overview: The Good, The Bad, and The Weird

Higher Ed received significant attention in 2011-12:

• Governance
• Postsecondary Finance
• Accountability/Productivity
• Completion
Overview: The Good, The Bad, and The Weird

• Issues to Watch: Adult Learners, Workforce Development, Common Core State Standards.

• And... Mascots!
Governance Changes in the West
Out With the Old...

Major governance changes in three Western states:

• California
• Oregon
• Washington
California

- California Postsecondary Education Commission (CPEC) abolished in 2011 with line item veto
- Essentially a cost cutting move
- To date, no other agency has taken its place
Oregon

- SB 909 (2011): Created the Oregon Education Investment Board (OEIB)
  - Designed to oversee all levels of education, preschool through college
- SB 1581 (2012): Identified positions under the authority and control of Chief Education Officer
• HB 2483 (2012): Abolished Higher Education Coordinating Board and created Washington Student Achievement Council (WSAC)
  – Purpose: increase attainment, strengthen transitions, set admission standards, develop “ten-year roadmap”
  – Also created Joint Higher Education Committee of the Legislature to provide feedback and improve coordination between WA’s postsecondary system and the legislature
Postsecondary Finance
It’s Still About the Money.

General fund revenues in many states increased compared to previous years BUT.

• Deficits remain an issue and loss of ARRA funds, rising healthcare costs, increased demand for other services creates more stress . . . and less money available for higher ed
So Long Stimulus

• ARRA helped overall state support for higher ed rise in 2011 compared to 2010
• BUT per-student funding continued to fall because of increased enrollment
• Now that ARRA is gone, how will states fill funding gaps?
Higher Education: The Problem and the Solution?

Policymakers continue to identify higher ed as a way to improve workforce development and boost weak state economies BUT doesn’t always translate to more funding

• State spending in 2012 declined to lowest level in years
  – State student support fell to lowest level in 25 years - $6,290 per student

Source: State Higher Education Executive Officers, 2012
A more considered approach to the way states fund higher education seems to be the trend (committees, task forces. . .)

- **ND: HB 1033 (2011)** appoints interim higher education committee to study funding issues
- **CO: HB 1252 (2012)** passed “Transparency of Higher Education Financial Information Act” to track revenue and expenditures
Performance Enhancing Legislation

Tight state budgets = do more with less

• Eliminate “inefficiencies” in higher education, focus on greater productivity and accountability
  – Tie state support to persistence, completion, and workforce development

• OUTCOMES-BASED MEASURES
Performance Enhancing Legislation

Outcomes-based funding nothing new:

• Performance Funding 1.0:
  – Considered a “bonus” – above and beyond

• Performance funding 2.0:
  – No longer a bonus – embedded into regular funding formula
Performance Enhancing Legislation

• Eight Western states (AZ, CO, NM, NV, ND, OR, UT, WA) have either discussed or enacted new productivity and performance-funding measures

• Again, most activity in planning stages (committees formed, studies commissioned) BUT the idea is gaining traction and most likely here to stay. . .
Performance Enhancing Legislation

- **OR: SB 1581 (2012)**
  - “Achievement Compacts” between OEIB and institutions to measure student outcomes

- **CO: SB 52 (2012)**
  - General Assembly will provide rewards to institutions that make progress in certain areas

- **NV: SB 374 (2011)**
  - Created Legislative Committee to Study the Funding of Higher Education
  - **(2012)** Adopted NSHE funding formula driven by course completions and performance goals
Financial Aid

States still spend more on need-based aid, but increasing attention still on merit-based aid programs:

• **Alaska Performance Scholarship**: Created in 2010, HB 104 (2012) provides funds for both Alaska Performance Scholarships and Alaska Advantage grants.

• **North Dakota Jump Start Scholarship**: Created through HB 1175 (2012) and designed for students who graduate from high school one year early.

• **California** cut Cal Grant awards by 5% in 2012-2013 budget signed by Gov. Brown.
Success Matters
The Completion Agenda

Policy activity in recent years focused on more than just access – persistence and completion have taken center stage

• Lumina’s “Big Goal” campaign, NGA’s “Complete to Compete,” and Complete College America just a few examples

• Obama Administration’s Goal: U.S. = highest proportion college graduate in the world by 2020
Accelerated Learning Options

• **WA: SB 5422 (2011)**
  – Enables academically qualified students to earn a bachelor’s degree in only three years

• **ID: HB 426 (2012)**
  – “8 in 6 Program” allows students to complete up to two years of college by the time they graduate high school

• **OR: HB 4013 (2012)**
  – Assist school districts to provide greater access to dual enrollment programs, and other strategies that decrease time to degree
Articulation and Transfer

• CO: SB 045 (2012)
  – Creates “reverse transfer” process that allows students to combine credits earned at two- and four-year institutions to complete an associate’s degree
Remedial/Developmental Education

• **AZ: SB 1255 (2012)**
  – Cut down on need for remediation by developing “competency-based pathways” before students get to college

• **CO: SB 047 (2012)**
  – Provides funding to high schools for basic skills test and students who fail can receive extra support

• **ND: HB 1036 (2011)**
  – Reduce number of students requiring remediation by aligning K-12 and higher education standards, identifying best practices
Community Colleges

- **CA: SB 1456 (2012) – “Student Success Act”**
  - Reforms include requiring students to identify an educational goal, such as a degree or transfer to a four-year university
  - Requiring campuses that receive funds to post scorecards with completion rates for all students
Issues to Watch
Adult Learners

• “Non-traditional” students now outnumber “traditional” students

• New strategies for getting adults back into college and helping them complete a degree

• Credit for prior learning – allows adults to receive college credit for what they already know, cutting the time to degree completion
Credit for Prior Learning

• **CO: HB 1072 (2012)**
  – Requires public institutions to develop a process for awarding college credit for a student’s prior learning based on work, community, or military service

• **OR: HB 4059 (2012)**
  – Directs HECC to develop clear prior learning policies, improve prior learning assessments, and create articulation agreements and outcome measures for prior learning

• **WA: HB 1795 (2012)**
  – Orders the development of transparent prior learning policies in an effort to increase the number of students who receive credit for prior learning and increase the number of credits for prior learning accepted at institutions
Workforce Development

• AK: HB 78 (2012)
  – Addresses shortage of health care workers in remote parts of the state

• CO: HB 061 (2012)
  – “Skills for Jobs” Act requires annual reports identifying workforce needs and gaps

• OR: HB 4141 (2012)
  – Creates a workforce development legislation advisory committee to encourage coordination and alignment of higher ed and economic development initiatives
The Common Core State Standards

More than a K-12 issue – higher education can and will play an increasingly important role in their implementation

• To date, Alaska is the only Western State that has not adopted the CCSS
The Common Core State Standards

Legislative activity picked up dramatically in 2012 and momentum is building

• 36 states introduced legislation in 2012 and 43 bills were enacted nationwide

• In the West, nine states (AZ, CA, CO, NM, OR, SD, UT, WA, WY) enacted 13 CCSS bills in 2012
The Common Core State Standards

- **CO: HB 1240 (2012)**
  - Requires state to become governing board member of PARCC or SMARTER Balance consortium until at least Jan. 1, 2014

- **OR: HB 4165 (2012)**
  - Directs Department of Education to align early learning and Head Start outcomes with the CCSS by June 30, 2013

- **SD: HB 1128 (2012)**
  - Requires the Board of Education to conduct four public hearings over a one year period before adopting certain Common Core State Standards
• **UT**: Conflicting legislation
  – **HB 15 (2012)** requires school districts and charter schools to administer computer adaptive tests aligned with the CCSS
  – **SB 217 (2012)** requires development of math curricula consistent with the CCSS
  – **SB 287 (2012)** states Utah may exit any agreement that “cedes control of Utah’s core curriculum standards to any other entity”
Legislators in North Dakota first passed, and then later repealed, legislation requiring the University of North Dakota to keep the controversial “Fighting Sioux” nickname and mascot.

- **HB 1263 (2011)** prohibited the university from changing the nickname, despite the threat of NCAA sanctions.

- **SB 2370 (2011)** repealed the same law during a special session.

- Supporters attempted to reverse the legislature’s decision with an initiative on the 2012 ballot, but voters rejected a return to the name, 67 to 33 percent. A new mascot has yet to be selected…
The New, New Normal

• Lots of ideas on the table, but little has changed – for now. . .
• Higher Education will continue to do more with less and face more accountability for what they do receive
• Tight state budgets = more outcomes-based funding, more transparency, and greater flexibility for both students and institutions
State Higher Education Policy Database

Nation’s only searchable database of state-level policies and resources for all 50 states in key issue areas related to access and success in higher education.
Search State Policies and Summary Paragraphs

- Accelerated Learning Options
- Adult Learners
- Articulation, Transfer, and Alignment
- Data and Accountability Systems
- Early Outreach Programs
- Equity and Diversity

- Remedial and Developmental Education
- Residency
- Student Financial Aid
- Student Retention
- Teaching Quality
- Tuition and Fees

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