

Montana University System – HB 2 Budget

Student Transferability Decision Package – DP 1051
(Revised for Subcommittee Presentation on Friday, January 26, 2007)
Accountability Measures

During the interim, the Postsecondary Education Policy and Budget Subcommittee (PEPB), in the process of recommending executive consideration of funding for \$1.475 million funding for improvements to the transferability of student credits, recommended that accountability measures be applied to this appropriation.¹

Given the complexity of the transferability issue across the university system, the legislature may want to consider adding an accountability measure should the following decision package in the executive budget for the 2009 biennium be approved:

In Executive Budget...Apply Accountability Measures to:

- o DP 1051 - Improve Transferability and Student Data (OTO) - The executive budget increases general fund by \$1.5 million for the 2009 biennium to fund a comprehensive, system-wide program to improve the transferability of student coursework between the campuses of the university system. This proposal includes an additional 2.50 FTE. This proposal includes approximately \$70,000 over the biennium to specifically support enhancements to dual enrollment programs as part of the student transferability initiative.

Proposed Accountability Measure (in a companion bill to HB2):

The university system is encouraged to:

- o ~~Create 11 faculty councils to work on transferability~~
- o Create transfer pathways in 11 different program and subject areas; those pathways may include common coursework, a common curriculum, common course content, articulation agreements, etc.
- o ~~Adopt articulation agreements between all university units, community colleges and tribal colleges for those 22 transfer pathways~~
- o Increase the number of pre and postsecondary educational credits that are accepted by the university by 15 percent above the FY 2007 baseline, including but not limited to dual enrollment, running start, advanced placement, and tech prep
- o Reduce the number of appeals of transfer credit decisions below the rate that is documented for the 2006-2007 base year, toward the goal of reducing the rate by at least 50% by the 2009-2010 year

By August 2008, the office of the commissioner of higher education shall report to the education and local government interim committee success in achieving the measures contained above. If the measures contained above are achieved, then the education and local government interim committee shall recommend to the office of budget and program planning that the appropriation of \$ 312,500, contained in House Bill No. 2 at line ____ of the 60th legislature may be treated as present law base and be part of the base budget for the 61st legislature.

¹ Initiative DP #3: Transferability and Integrated Student Data System (restricted, OTO)

The PEPB recommends a restricted, one-time-only general fund appropriation of \$1.475 million to support improvements to the transferability and student data systems as follows:

- \$645,000 biennial appropriation to support development of a Data Warehouse and implementation of the required assessment models
- \$600,000 biennial appropriation to support the management of the project
- \$115,000 in FY 2008 to support faculty program council expenses

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- \$115,000 in FY 2009 to continue support for faculty program council expenses, contingent upon the Office of the Commissioner of Higher Education providing a report, to be presented to the PEPB by May 15, 2008 that demonstrates the following:
 - transfer pathways have been created in 22 different program and subject areas
 - that the number of potential pre-post-secondary educational credits that are accepted by the university system (e.g. dual enrollment, running start, advanced placement, tech prep, etc.) has been increased by 25 percent

The sustainable components of this one-time-only appropriation may become an ongoing appropriation in the subsequent 2011 biennium budget contingent upon a report to the PEPB by August 2008 that demonstrates progress toward the following accountability measures:

- that appeals of transfer credit decisions have been reduced by 50% from the baseline year of 2006-2007
- that K-12 graduation standards and post-secondary proficiency standards in composition, mathematics and science will be aligned
- that articulation agreements between all university units, community colleges and tribal colleges are in place for the 22 transfer pathways
- that retention and completion rates for students that have transferred between campuses are the same as rates for students that have not transferred between campuses

Approved by PEPB at meeting on Monday, June 12, 2006

Montana University System – HB 2 Budget

Distance Learning Decision Package – DP 1052 (Revised for Subcommittee Presentation on Friday, January 26, 2007) Accountability Measures

companion bill
to push
225,000
into next
base

During the interim, the Postsecondary Education Policy and Budget Subcommittee (PEPB), in the process of recommending executive consideration of funding for \$900,000 funding for improvements to the distance learning system, recommended that accountability measures be applied to this appropriation.¹

Given the ongoing nature of the distance learning program and its application across the university system, the legislature may want to consider adding an accountability measure should the following decision package in the executive budget for the 2009 biennium be approved:

In Executive Budget...Apply Accountability Measures to:

- DP 1052 – Coordinate and Expand Distance Learning (OTO) - The executive restores and increases the one-time-only funding to support coordinating and expansion of the distance learning/online educational programs for the university system. This one-time-only proposal is for \$900,000 and 1.00 FTE for the 2009 biennium with funding allocated as follows:
 - Central course management and expand the “gateway” for all courses: \$450,000
 - Develop new on-line courses in high-demand areas: \$100,000
 - Develop on-line application, records, and financial aid processes: \$75,000
 - Develop learning outcomes assessment: \$25,000
 - Develop on-line student support and advising system: \$100,000
 - Create single tuition and fee statements for on-line courses: \$75,000
 - Administrative costs: \$75,000

Proposed Accountability Measures (in a companion bill to HB2):

The university system is encouraged to expand and coordinate the distance learning program across the university system. The university system is urged to:

- Increase by 10 %, above the FY 2007 baseline, the number of students enrolled in distance learning education courses (towards a biennial goal of 20%)
- Increase by 10 %, above the FY 2007 baseline, the number of distance learning courses and programs that are offered (a total of approximately 60 new courses and programs)
- Increase by 10 %, above the FY 2007 baseline, the number of new credit and non-credit distance education programs that are intended to serve primarily workers in need of career training and employers in need of specially skilled workers (a total of approximately 30 new courses)

By August 2008, the office of the commissioner of higher education shall report to the education and local government interim committee success in achieving the measures contained above. If the measures contained above are achieved, then the education and local government interim committee shall recommend to the office of budget and program planning that the appropriation of \$ 225,000, contained in House Bill No. 2 at line _____ of the 60th legislature may be treated as present law base and be part of the base budget for the 61st legislature.

¹ Initiative DP #4: Coordinate and Improve Distance Learning (restricted, OTO)

The PEPB recommends a restricted general fund appropriation of \$900,000 to support the expansion and coordination of the distance learning program across the university system as follows:

- \$450,000 in FY 2008 to support this program and to continue work on the "Montana Distance Learning Gateway"
- \$450,000 in FY 2009 to continue program support, contingent upon the Office of the Commissioner of Higher Education providing a report that is presented to PEPB by May 15, 2008 that demonstrates the following:
 - an increase of ___% of students enrolled in distance learning education courses
 - an increase of ___% in the number of distance learning courses and programs that are offered
 - an increase of ___% in the number of new credit and non-credit distance education programs that are intended to serve primarily workers in need of career training and employers in need of specially skilled workers

Approved by PEPB at meeting on Monday, June 12, 2006

Montana University System – HB 2 Budget

Student Assistance/Financial Aid Programs (Revised for Subcommittee Presentation on Friday, January 26, 2007) Accountability Measures

During the interim, the Postsecondary Education Policy and Budget Subcommittee (PEPB), in the process of recommending executive consideration of funding for \$2.5 million funding for expanded need-based scholarships, recommended that accountability measures be applied to this appropriation.¹

Given the complexity of the student assistance/financial aid programs across the university system, the legislature may want to consider adding an accountability measure that would require a report to the legislature should any of the following decision packages be approved:

In Executive Budget...Apply Accountability Measures to:

- • DP 2002 - Governor's Postsecondary Scholarship (Program 02) – The executive budget adds \$3.3 million in the 2009 biennium budget in order to fund additional scholarship awards as part of the Governor's Postsecondary Scholarship Program, approved as HB 435 by the 2005 legislature and codified at 20-26-601, MCA.
- • DP 2061 – Governor's Scholarship Program Expansion (Program 02) – The executive budget increases general fund by \$750,000 in the 2009 biennium to expand the availability of financial need based scholarships that respond to workforce demands by targeting more scholarships to the high demand occupations in healthcare, technology and the building trades. These high demand occupations scholarships would support students attending the Colleges of Technology, community colleges, and tribal colleges. In addition, the executive proposes increases in four-year merit scholarships for graduating Montana high school students.
- • DP 9008 – Tuition Waivers – High School Honors Program (OTO) (Program 09) - The executive budget funds the cost of tuition waivers associated with the High School Honors Program with \$1 million general fund in the 2009 biennium.

Proposed Accountability Measure (in a companion bill to HB 2):

HB 2 funding for the Montana University System includes funding for a report to the education and local government interim committee by August 2008 that includes:

- A report that addresses the various components of student financial aid, both federal and state funded, (e.g. Baker, MHEG, Pell, LEAP, SLEAP, Governor's Scholarship Program, MPACT, tuition waivers, MUS Honors Scholarship, work study, Perkins Loan, etc.) and includes findings and recommendations for how the components of the student financial aid program may best achieve the shared policy goals of affordability approved by the interim postsecondary education policy and budget subcommittee
- The impact that all student assistance programs in this plan have on progress toward Board of Regents 2006-2010 Strategic Plan Goal I(2), to "make higher education more affordable by offering more need-based financial aid and scholarships" in the following measures:
 - Reduce the gap between expected family contribution and average cost of attendance
 - Increase the percentage of students who receive financial aid or scholarships
 - Increase the average aid/scholarship award amount

¹ Initiative DP #2: Improve Affordability (restricted, biennial, OTO)

The PEPB recommends a restricted, biennial, one-time-only general fund appropriation of \$2.5 million to support the MPACT scholarship financial aid/student assistance program at university educational units across the Montana University System.

This one-time-only appropriation may become an ongoing appropriation in the subsequent 2011 biennium budget contingent upon a report to the PEPB by August 2008 that demonstrates progress toward the following accountability measures:

- completion of a comprehensive plan that coordinates all student financial aid components (e.g. Baker, MHEG, Pell, LEAP, SLEAP, Governor's Scholarship Program, MPACT, tuition waivers, MUS Honors Scholarship, work study, Perkins Loan, etc.) so that all programs comprise an integrated system of student aid that can accomplish the Shared Policy goals of affordability
- that this comprehensive, integrated student aid program has increased the average state funded need-based aid award to each student by \$ 70 per capita (from \$71 to \$141), which is equal to a 100% increase
- that this comprehensive, integrated student aid program will increase retention and completion rates for the targeted need-based aid students by _____%

Approved by PEPB at meeting on Monday, June 1, 2006