



State of Connecticut

The Connecticut General Assembly

The Planning Commission for Higher Education Student Financial Aid Working Group

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James Maroney, Chairman

Meeting Minutes

Thursday, January 28, 2016

10:30 a.m. - Room 1E

The meeting was called to order by James Maroney at 10:45 a.m.

The following commission members/designees/guests were present: James Maroney, Jen Widness, Julie Savino, Mark French, Alan Shepard, Kerry Kelley, Judy Resnick, Rich Bishop, Heather Hamilton, Wayne Locust, Mona Lucas, Roberta Willis, Greg DeSantis, Jeanette Weldon, Gregg Haddad and Steve McDowell.

Members introduced themselves.

Mona Lucas, Director, Financial Aid Services, University of Connecticut presented their financial aid packaging strategy. Decisions on financial aid packages for need based aid are based exclusively on information from FAFSA.

The University of Connecticut follows three guiding principles when developing its financial aid packaging strategy. These principles are to stay true to the university mission and enrollment goals, to ensure that all decisions are data driven, and to ensure there is rational behind decisions and the strategy is budget based.

There was a discussion on their need versus merit based scholarships.

There was a conversation regarding in state versus out of state awards for merit based scholarships.

Discussion and clarifications followed.

Nate Johnson, Principal Consultant, Strategy Labs delivered a presentation on financial aid relating to goals of higher education attainment. The four goals laid out were to make college more affordable for low income students, to make college prices more predictable and transparent, to provide incentives to students and institutions to increase completions and lower prices, and to ensure that

federal, state, and institutional policies are aligned. Together these goals work in concert towards an increase in the overall level of higher education attained.

Examples were given of policies in other states. There was a discussion concerning the pros and cons of these policies as well as changes that they made to become more in line with the goals laid out and the results thereof.

There was a discussion of the next steps for the work with Strategy Labs. Nate Johnson made himself available to follow up with any future questions.

Roberta Willis provided a summary of legislative initiatives in the upcoming session that may affect the Governor's Scholarship Program.

The time of the next meeting was discussed but not agreed upon.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:21 p.m.