

U.S. Department of Education
Committee on Measures of Student Success

The fifth meeting of the U.S. Department of Education's (Department) Committee on Measures of Student Success (Committee) was held on Tuesday, November 29, 2011 via teleconference at 1990 K Street, NW in Washington, DC.

Established by the Higher Education Opportunity Act of 2008 (HEOA), the Committee will advise the Secretary of Education in assisting two-year degree-granting institutions of higher education in meeting the completion or graduation rate disclosure requirements outlined in the Act. The Committee may also recommend additional or alternate measures of student success that are comparable alternatives to completion or graduation rates.

The following Committee members were in attendance:

- Dr. Thomas Bailey, Professor of Economics and Education, Columbia University (chair, *in person*)
- Dr. Margarita Benitez, Senior Associate, Excelencia in Education (*in person*)
- Dr. Wayne Burton, President, North Shore Community College (*in person*)
- Ms. Alisa Federico Cunningham, Vice President, Institute for Higher Education Policy (*in person*)
- Mr. Kevin Carey, Policy Director, Education Sector (*in person*)
- Mr. Jacob Fraire, Assistant Vice President for Educational Alliances, Texas Guaranteed Student Loan Corporation (*via teleconference*)
- Ms. Isabel Friedman, Student, University of Pennsylvania (*via teleconference*)
- Dr. Millie Garcia, President, California State University (CSU), Dominguez Hills (*via teleconference*)
- Mr. Harold Levy, Managing Director, Palm Ventures (*via teleconference*)
- Mr. Patrick Perry, Vice Chancellor, California Community College System (*via teleconference*)
- Dr. Lashawn Richburg-Hayes, Deputy Director, MDRC (*via teleconference*)
- Dr. Linda Thor, Chancellor, Foothill-De Anza Community College District (*via teleconference*)
- Dr. Belle Wheelan, President, Southern Association of Colleges and Schools' Commission on Colleges (*via teleconference*)

Invited guests included:

- Dr. Jack Buckley, Commissioner, National Center for Education Statistics (*in person*)

- Dr. Thomas Weko, Associate Commissioner, National Center for Education Statistics (*in person*)
- Ms. Andrea Sykes, Laurium Evaluation Group (*in person*)

MEETING SUMMARY

Welcome

Dr. Thomas Bailey, Committee chair, called the meeting to order at 11:04 a.m. and welcomed the group. He outlined the goals of the meeting, which included hearing comments from Committee members regarding the final draft of the report and deciding whether to accept it for submission to Secretary Arne Duncan.

Dr. Jack Buckley, Commissioner for the National Center for Education Statistics, provided opening remarks and thanked the Committee members for their hard work over the past year. The Commissioner shared that the Administration has expressed interest in the Committee's recommendations and will develop and implement an action plan based on the final report.

Following Dr. Buckley's comments, Committee members were asked to share their thoughts on the Committee's work and on the final draft of the report. A summary of the Committee members' comments follows:

- Committee members expressed support for the content and tone of the final draft of the report.
- Members noted that the recommendations in the report generally reflected the guiding principles agreed upon by the Committee, such as weighing the cost of institutional burden against benefits of more and better data on student success.
- Members suggested that the Committee's recommendations are applicable to four-year institutions as well.
- Members urged the Department to implement the Committee's recommendations, emphasizing that informed technical experts should play an important role in working out details of the recommendations.
- Several members suggested that minor changes to the report be made, such as placing additional emphasis on disaggregating measures of student success by race/ethnicity and gender in the summary of the report.
- Dr. Belle Wheelan requested that it be noted in the public record that while she supports the report, she does not endorse the specific recommendation around a student unit record system.

After each Committee member shared remarks on the final draft of the report, Dr. Bailey summarized the Committee's comments and noted the following:

- The final report will include a stronger emphasis on the Committee's recommendation that data be disaggregated by race/ethnicity and gender and incorporate minor copyediting changes.
- Dr. Wheelan's comment will be entered in the public record, but there will be no need to modify the content of the final report.

Dr. Wayne Burton entered a motion to accept the report with the suggested changes for submission to the Secretary. Committee members unanimously accepted the motion.

Following the Committee's acceptance of the report, Dr. Bailey offered reflections on the work of the Committee, stating that he believed the Committee found agreement despite the complexities associated with measuring and disclosing outcomes of students' success. Dr. Bailey ended by encouraging the Department to pursue the Committee's recommendations vigorously.

With the Committee's acceptance of the report, Dr. Archie Cubarrubia reviewed the process for submitting the final report to the Secretary. After the suggested changes are made, the report will undergo copyediting prior to its final submission to the Secretary in December. Committee members and the general public can expect the Department to release an action plan in January 2012.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:15 p.m.

I certify the accuracy of these minutes.

/s/ Thomas R. Bailey
Chair

12/19/11
Date