

COMMITTEE ON AFFORDABILITY UPDATE

Submitted for: Information.

Summary: The Committee on Affordability held its first meeting on October 2, 2002 in Chicago. At that meeting, Committee members received information on key affordability-related trends and challenges for Illinois higher education and also discussed the objectives and timeline for the study. The Committee also determined that this study should build on the recommendations made by the 1994 Committee to Study Affordability, making changes, additions, and other enhancements where necessary and appropriate. To facilitate this, the Committee is currently gathering opinions from within the Illinois higher education community and from other interested individuals via a web-based survey on the 1994 recommendations as well as other issues that should be considered in this study.

The next Committee on Affordability meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, December 10th in the Consort Room of the Westin Michigan Avenue Hotel Chicago, beginning at 1:30 p.m. following the regularly scheduled meeting of the Board of Higher Education.

Action Requested: None.

STATE OF ILLINOIS
BOARD OF HIGHER EDUCATION

COMMITTEE ON AFFORDABILITY UPDATE

The Committee on Affordability, comprised of members of the Illinois Board of Higher Education (IBHE) and Illinois Student Assistance Commission (ISAC), held its first meeting in Chicago on October 2nd. At that opening meeting, Committee members received information on key affordability-related trends and challenges for Illinois higher education and also discussed the objectives and timeline for the study. The meeting agenda and presentation materials can be found at the web page established for the work of the Committee at <http://www.ibhe.state.il.us/Affordability/default.htm>.

The Committee determined at the October meeting that this study should build on the recommendations made by the 1994 Committee to Study Affordability, making changes, additions, and other enhancements where necessary and appropriate. These original recommendations, adopted by both the IBHE and ISAC, included several policy recommendations to enhance academic preparation and progress, assist needy students, and keep college costs affordable.

Given that eight years have passed since the Board's affordability policies were adopted, the committee is currently gathering opinions from within the Illinois higher education community and from other interested individuals via a web-based survey on: (1) the extent to which each of the 1994 recommendations have been sufficiently addressed; (2) the importance of these recommendations as emphases for the work of the committee; and (3) other issues that the committee should consider as part of its study. All interested individuals are invited to participate in this survey, which can be accessed at:

<http://www.ibhe.org/affordability/survey/>

This survey is completely confidential and secure, and the results will help provide the necessary input to the Committee in focusing its work over the next several months.

The next Committee on Affordability meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, December 10th beginning at 1:30 p.m. in the Consort Room (16th Floor) of the Westin Michigan Avenue Hotel Chicago, following the regularly scheduled meeting of the Illinois Board of Higher Education. At that meeting, the Committee will hear presentations from three nationally recognized experts on the topic of affordability including: Pat Callan, President of the National Center for Higher Education and Public Policy; Brian Fitzgerald, Staff Director of the federal Advisory Committee on Student Financial Assistance; and Jane Wellman, Senior Associate at the Institute for Higher Education Policy.

