
ILLINOIS COMMISSION ON EQUITABLE PUBLIC UNIVERSITY FUNDING

Illinois Commission on Equitable Public University Funding Technical Modeling Workgroup

Meeting #23, January 25, 2024 from 9:00am-11:30am CT

Meeting Chat

06:10:46 From Katie Lynne Morton to Host and Panelists:

The 2nd February Commission meeting is actually scheduled for February 27th. Sorry for any confusion.

06:17:14 From Michael Moss to Host and Panelists:

I agree with President Mahony. We often just moved on without consensus on a variety of issues.

06:19:51 From Sandy Cavi to Host and Panelists:

These were my points as well. I have concerns not only about ESS, but also adequacy calculations. We never revisited the calculation of averages and use of FTE versus HC.

06:21:24 From Michael Moss to Host and Panelists:

Sandy - agree. I continue to have concerns with the mix-and-match approach to source of funds. The basis for using all-funds versus State only was unclear and had a significant impact on O&M, among other things.

06:24:02 From Michael Moss to Host and Panelists:

I think receiving a copy of the draft report would be helpful so we can provide specific feedback prior to the meeting on the 15th.

06:25:58 From Simón Weffer to Host and Panelists:

Thank you for that last summary Ginger, I agree

06:32:08 From Michael Moss to Host and Panelists:

Beth: completely agree. I still don't understand how changes in financial aid will impact the model, for example. The level of complexity is so great at the expense of transparency and predictability.

06:34:15 From Michael Moss to Host and Panelists:

Robin: I think the model is so complex that leadership cannot make decisions on the spot and understand the outcome. It's critical that they understand how their decisions impact future State approps.

06:42:10 From Mike Abrahamson to Host and Panelists:

I hear and agree about the importance with a complex formula of being able to understand it for institutional decision-making purposes. I do think some of these concerns come down to accountability and design, though, and so I support having dedicated bodies that meet, evaluate, and update these aspects

06:44:55 From Sandy Cavi to Host and Panelists:

If we continue to use ESS as stated, the weights need to be revisited. This is another example of "we'll get back to it." I have fears about accountability being based on a flawed formula and not looking at universities from a broad enough view.

06:47:18 From Simón Weffer to Host and Panelists:

I think what I'm hearing is that members of this group aren't sure that, to use Ralph's phrase, that we are "close enough"

06:47:24 From Dr. Beth Ingram to Host and Panelists:

I have office hours now, so may need to duck in and out if any students show up.

06:49:02 From Robin Steans to Host and Panelists:

sandy, can you say more?

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06:49:22 From Robin Steans to Host and Panelists:

(probably not in the chat :))

06:50:55 From Kim H. Tran to Host and Panelists:

Sorry, have to step away briefly, but agree with Robin and Ralph in that I believe we have the large, structural elements in place and that the full commission next month will be able to shape the remaining portions before the report is submitted

06:52:03 From Michael Moss to Host and Panelists:

Sandy - 100% agree. We revisited that numerous time. And I think using the one-size-fits-all baseline understated the actual baseline for schools with high-cost programs.

06:52:56 From Michael Moss to Host and Panelists:

Sandy - I also agree. We never even established an ESS for Professionals, for example.

06:56:34 From Michael Moss to Host and Panelists:

"If we fully fund the model". I think we are headed for 5% next year based on the budget proposed to the Governor. So we will be under-funding the model right out of the gate.

06:57:19 From Simón Weffer to Host and Panelists:

There isn't a perfect model, but when you're doing something new, we know inertia is HUGE, and it will be hard to take things out or change them.

06:57:29 From Simón Weffer to Host and Panelists:

*out

06:58:43 From Simón Weffer to Host and Panelists:

Having worked on union contracts, something that goes in the first one, becomes exceedingly difficult in version 2, 3, 4

07:05:49 From Michael Moss to Host and Panelists:

My final comment is that the model will not perform as intended unless it is fully funded. In the absence of perfect funding, I believe that some Universities will be helped at the expense of other Universities that will be harmed. I do not think anyone intended this formula to cause harm, but I believe it is a real and tangible outcome. The formula is overly optimistic that the funding will somehow materialize.

07:06:14 From Dan Mahony to Host and Panelists:

I am going to go back to my original comment. There is clear disagreement on issues that are being presented to the commission as things on which we have reached agreement. For the sake of transparency, we need to be clear in the reporting that this disagreement exists. I am not looking to change anyone's mind on these disagreements at this point and this discussion is not changing mine.

07:07:59 From Michael Moss to Host and Panelists:

Agree.

07:12:03 From Robin Steans to Host and Panelists:

I would like to be sure we are being clear about the nature of any disagreements. Not ignoring, but not making sweeping statements.

07:18:16 From Simón Weffer to Host and Panelists:

And just to make sure, we punted on deferred maintenance. Which is in my mind an equity issue, those campuses that have more deferred maintenance is based on historical underfunding

07:18:59 From Robin Steans to Host and Panelists:

worth pausing to see if we can agree that the issue will/should be mentioned in the report -i.e., a call to address separately

07:20:06 From Sandy Cavi to Host and Panelists:

I disagree. Especially if you look at per student FTE funding.

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07:23:03 From Robin Steans to Host and Panelists:

Agree that capital needs (including deferred maintenance) need to be flagged clearly and with emphasis.

07:25:27 From Kim H. Tran to Host and Panelists:

And in particular, how the underfunding of deferred maintenance has exacerbated inequities when it impacts the ability of campuses being able to recruit, which then affected headcount funding and so on

07:45:16 From Michael Moss to Host and Panelists:

I agree with Sandy and will provide additional input once I have time to go back to some of our early analysis. When we looked at this, about 1/2 of the Universities were above the average and 1/2 were below. This was looking at all-funds actual expenditures. The Universities that are brought down are harmed.

07:45:44 From Robin Steans to Host and Panelists:

brb

07:49:34 From Martha Snyder to Host and Panelists:

We will schedule another work group meeting.

07:55:29 From Michael Moss to Host and Panelists:

My understanding was that using Headcount also ended up duplicating data for some institutions based on how we currently report to IBHE. It overstated their headcount. That was another basis for recommending FTE.

07:58:09 From Sandy Cavi to Host and Panelists:

Great point Nate.

08:04:41 From Michael Moss to Host and Panelists:

From the prior tab: UIC is widely recognized for serving low-income diverse population, yet we end up in the middle of the pack in regard to ESS. That has never made sense to me. I think this is another area where the outcome is unfavorable since we have not adequately recognized Grad and Prof students. I will reiterate that we don't even have weights for Prof at all.

08:14:30 From Simón Weffer to Host and Panelists:

Mike just hit it on the head, we DON'T know about post-bac

08:15:54 From Mike Abrahamson to Host and Panelists:

For reference the calculation I was doing was the population of students of color in these fields relative to each university's overall student body

08:15:56 From Simón Weffer to Host and Panelists:

and while we know that increasing funding for undergraduates then brings about a whole host of wrap around services, that's not clear on the grad side. Particularly the range of difference from MBA at UIUC to MA in Philosophy at NIU, to an EdD degree at ISU

08:16:53 From Sandy Cavi to Host and Panelists:

Cory's question goes back to why decreasing UI schools and others to the average spend is harmful. Their spend is higher due to multiple factors, one of which is professional degrees.

08:16:55 From Dan Mahony to Host and Panelists:

And that national data is wrong, as we have pointed out a number of times.

08:17:45 From Michael Moss to Host and Panelists:

FWIW, our UIC College of Medicine is also struggling with a deficit on State funds and has been for many years. Current resources do not fund base instructional costs.

08:21:03 From Michael Moss to Host and Panelists:

Absolutely yes, Simon. We just moved on for many topics.