

PENNSSTATE



Spellings Commission Report



Rodney A. Erickson
Committee on Educational Policy
Board of Trustees
November 17, 2006



Commission on the Future of Higher Education Report

- Mixed messages – some laudatory comments
- Cites a growing competitive threat from other nations
- Warns of “unwarranted complacency”
- Focuses on Access, Affordability, Accountability



ACCESS - Concerns

- Inadequate high school preparation
- Lack of information about colleges
- Financial barriers
- College graduation rates too low, especially for low income and minority students



ACCESS - Recommendations

- Align K-12 graduation standards with college requirements to create a seamless pathway from high school to college
- Incentives for colleges to collaborate with K-12



ACCESS - Penn State Has

- Well publicized admission requirements
- Programs to assist underserved students
- Partnerships with PA school districts
- More welcoming environment for adult students



COST & AFFORDABILITY - Concerns

- College costs outpace inflation
- Limited incentives for institutions to improve efficiency and productivity
- However,
 - Financial support has not kept pace with inflation
 - Market forces different in higher education
 - Student have many choices with varying costs




COST & AFFORDABILITY - Recommendations

- Engage in cost cutting and productivity improvements
- Reduce barriers for transfer students
- Encourage high school-based college courses




COST & AFFORDABILITY - Penn State Has Been

- Controlling costs while improving quality
- Improving productivity – streamlining curricula, reducing low enrollment sections, blended-learning courses
- Using a model web-based credit transfer guide



Undergraduate Admissions



TRANSFER COURSE EVALUATION GUIDE

Welcome!

Welcome to Penn State's online transfer course evaluation guide. This three-step guide allows you to enter course work that you have taken, or plan to take at another institution, and view Penn State's review of that course work. We strongly recommend that you review the Credit Transfer Policy located on the top blue navigational bar.

Please choose one of the following options:

[For Penn State Students](#)

[For Prospective Students](#)

[Credit Transfer Policy](#)

[Course Catalog](#)

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Information on this Web site is available in alternative media upon request.



FINANCIAL AID - Concerns

- National financial aid system is confusing, complex, inefficient, duplicative, and does not direct aid to the most needy students



FINANCIAL AID - Recommendations

- Consolidate federal student aid programs
- Streamline processes
- Replace FAFSA with shorter and simpler application
- Send out financial aid offers earlier

FINANCIAL AID - Penn State Has Been

- Providing clear and timely financial aid information



Office of Student Aid

Penn State Federal School Code 003329

- Priority Dates
- Penn State's Costs
- Applying for Aid
- Scholarships
- Loans
- Other Aid Programs
- Contact Us

Information For

- Prospective Students
- Undergraduate Students
- Graduate Students
- Law and Medical Students
- Adult Learners
- Parents of Students

Get the Facts

- FAQs
- Students Must Know
- Student Employment
- Publications Gallery
- Glossary



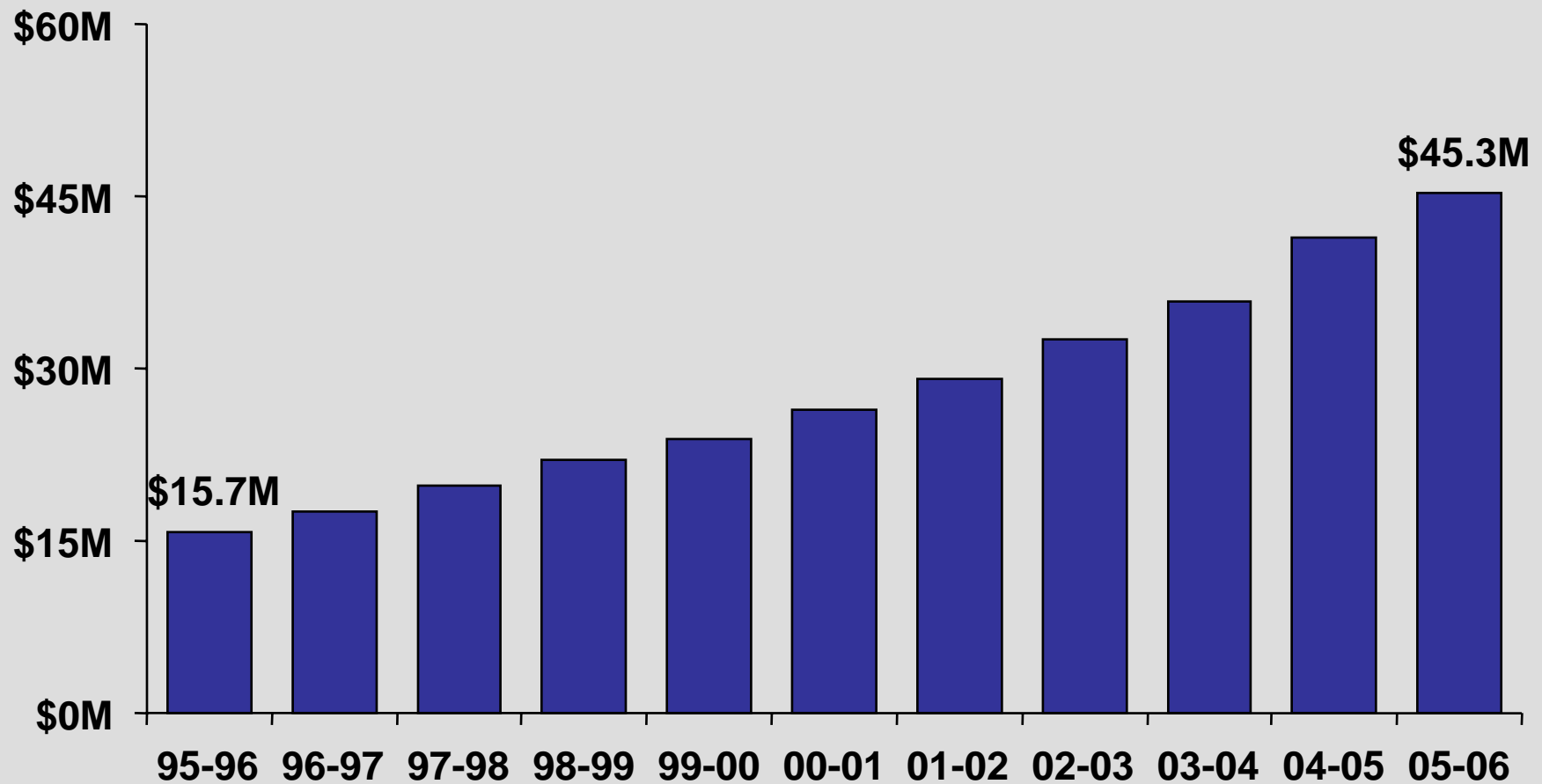
News

- Parent Newsletter
- Applying for Aid

Featured Links

- E-sign Your Stafford Loan Application
- Federal Parent PLUS Loan Information
- Federal Graduate PLUS Loan Information
- Alternative Loans

University Scholarship Spending for Undergraduates 1995-96 to 2005-06



FINANCIAL AID - Penn State Has Been

- Providing clear and timely financial aid information
- Offering increased scholarship dollars to students
- Planning future development efforts around student support





LEARNING - Concerns

- Quality of student learning is inadequate
- Other nations improving higher education faster
- Serious consequences for employers and U.S. competitiveness
 - National Academies Report, *Rising Above the Gathering Storm*



LEARNING - Recommendations

- Improve student learning through new pedagogies, curricula, and technologies

LEARNING - Penn State Has

- Placed emphasis on improving learning in all colleges and campuses
- Constant curricular improvements
- Charged Coordinating Committee on University Assessment in February 2005





TRANSPARENCY & ACCOUNTABILITY - Concerns

- Inadequate transparency and accountability for measuring institutional performance
- Need more information from colleges on student access, retention, student learning, costs of education

TRANSPARENCY & ACCOUNTABILITY - Recommendations

- Universities should provide more information, such as costs of attendance, student aid, measures of student learning and graduation rates





TRANSPARENCY & ACCOUNTABILITY Penn State Provides

- Most of the information the Commission is requesting on the Web



Public Accountability

University Budget Office

[Penn State Budget](#) [Penn State Tuition](#) [Fact Book](#) [Common Data Set](#) [Appropriation Request](#) [Public Accountability](#) [High School Projections](#)



Penn State Budget:

[Budget Presentation](#)

[Operating Budget Detail](#)

[Appropriation Request](#)

[Stairs/Rhoades Report](#)

Related Information:

[Fact Book](#)

[University Policy Manual](#)

[National Report Card on Teacher Education](#)

[Tuition Task Force Report](#)

[Annual Crime Statistics](#)

[Graduation Rates](#)

[Student Financial Aid](#)

Public Accountability

Our goal is to make timely information about Penn State available to students, faculty, staff, and citizens of the Commonwealth, and to do so in an easy-to-use format. In addition to the general information about Penn State, the Fact Book contains a wide variety of information on student, faculty, and staff budget and finances, research expenditures, and alumni and development activities. New information will be added as it becomes available.

University Budget Office · 308 Old Main · University Park, PA 16802
Phone: (814) 865-7641 · Fax: (814) 863-8050



2004-05 Operating Expenditures Earth & Mineral Sciences - General Funds Department Summary Report

Geography	2003-04 Actual		2004-05 Actual	
	Expense	Income	Expense	Income
Salaries	2,126,739		2,371,902	
Wages	6,441		11,106	
Sub-Total Salaries	2,133,180		2,383,008	
Supplies, Materials & Services	12,823		5,896	
Communication Services	23,772		15,804	
Travel Expense	43,046		55,118	
Publications, Printing&Copying	8,186		11,182	
Repairs, Alterations & Capital	6,137		21,217	
Equipment Budget	51,778		41,262	
Conferences & Group Activities	6,845		9,815	
Student Aid	5,254		20,396	
Books & Periodicals	2,228		4,941	
Miscellaneous	7,434		7,406	
Sub-Total Departmental Allotment	167,503		193,037	
Total Directly Budgeted	2,300,683		2,576,045	
Employee Benefits	690,763		837,754	
Total Geography	2,991,446	14,407	3,413,799	12,958



TRANSPARENCY & ACCOUNTABILITY - Discussion

- Concerns about unit record for students
- Difficult to measure “value added”
- Difficult to measure placement rates in dynamic labor markets



INNOVATION - Concerns

- Lack of entrepreneurship in trying new methods of teaching and learning

INNOVATION - Recommendations

- Embrace a culture of continuous quality improvement, especially in science and math instruction
- Develop a national strategy for lifelong learning



INNOVATION - Penn State Has

- A long-term commitment to continuous quality improvement
- A history of initiatives that embrace innovation
 - Schreyer Institute for Teaching Excellence
 - Blended Learning Initiative
 - World Campus and Penn State Online



Strengths of the Spellings Commission Report

- Commitment to access and call for more student aid
- Value of innovation in teaching and learning, and learning outcomes assessment
- Importance of accountability and transparency
- Need for primary, secondary, and post-secondary institutions to be better aligned

Weaknesses of the Spellings Commission Report

- Largely neglects the role of faculty
- Has a narrow economic focus
- Views higher education as a single system
- Is silent on graduate education
- A sense of simple solutions to complex problems
- Does not recognize and build on accountability that already exists



Next Steps: A Political Process

- Many actions recommended by the Commission require legislative approval
- Discussion and lobbying will continue in advance of Higher Education Reauthorization legislation
- Expect intense lobbying