

Mission Study Task Force

Discussion Summary of Major Trends Implications for College System

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1. Put students first.
 - Determine and break down barriers for students, especially barriers created by the college or the system
 - Provide student-centered services
 - Ask how resource allocations impact students
 - Provide a flexible structure to meet students' needs with a workable funding model:
 - Where – online, at specific locations, everywhere
 - When – flexible schedules, anytime
 - What – course offerings
 - How – match technology and other modalities with student learning style
2. Focus college resources on teaching and learning and student success.
 - Concentrate more effort on our core work with students
 - Free up resources for innovation, learning, and success by improving program delivery and the efficiency of administrative functions
 - Increase access to open curricular resources.
 - Enable faculty to pick and choose from others and continuously re-mix their courses
 - Provide instructional design assistance and professional development
 - Improve college assessment tools for validating knowledge, skills, and abilities and measuring student outcomes.
3. Reduce costs and improve the efficiency of administrative functions through technology and shared services.
 - Centralize back office functions as appropriate, while maintaining responsiveness and flexibility as needed
 - Pool resources regionally or system wide to increase cost efficiency and effectiveness
 - Address the lack of an integrated, easy-to-use information technology infrastructure that supports better administrative and instructional decision making and supports the sharing of student level data with K-12 and 4-year institutions
4. Standardize technology functions to allow for innovation and transfer of innovation among colleges.
 - Encourage innovation, responsiveness and flexibility to respond to an increasingly diverse student population and the rapid pace of technological change.
 - Weigh where standardization makes sense, adds value, provides a balance between centralization and local control, and frees up colleges and resources to focus more on students
 - Establish a single set of rules for all colleges, freeing up college staff time for innovation and student services. Some examples may include:
 - One uniform college application for all Washington higher education institutions
 - One financial aid application that could be used in any college in the state.

5. Expand the use of technology for anytime eLearning and self service student services.
 - Build technology infrastructure to support learning
 - Use hybrid, accelerated courses that use software to provide highly customized teaching and learning environments for learners

6. Continue to reach out to business, matching industry needs with skilled workers.
 - Strengthen industry and government partnerships
 - Use nimbleness to respond to opportunities