

ACTION PLAN FOR AFFORDABILITY RECOMMENDATIONS

RECOMMENDATION	PROGRESS SINCE PASSAGE	PLAN GOING FORWARD	EXPECTED TIMELINE
(1) ... that public institutions be required to dedicate between 5% and 30% of tuition increases (depending on each institution's circumstances) to need-based financial aid for in-state students.	State officials, rectors, & institutional staff have been informed. Staff has reviewed institutional practices and found that many institutions dedicate funds in this way now. Questions have arisen regarding the constitutionality of such a requirement (i.e., giving institutions the authority to "tax").	Staff will review institutional practices again in the fall to gauge how many institutions are doing this and at what %. If it is the will of the Council at that time, staff will begin to investigate the feasibility of legislation requiring institutions to dedicate tuition funds in this way.	Staff review of data & follow-up report to Council in the fall. Council will decide in fall whether and, if so, how to proceed.
(2) ... that public institutions be financially rewarded for improving student retention, timely completion, and graduation rates.	President Obama expressed interest in a \$2.5 billion Access and Completion Incentive Fund to support innovative state efforts to help low-income students succeed and complete their college education.	Given budget realities, staff does not recommend seeking to create new rewards for these goals or increasing rewards that already exist via Restructuring. Staff suggests that Council pursue these interests via certification under Restructuring.	In the short-term, continue to address these issues during the normal institutional certification process in Restructuring. Longer term, monitor Mr. Obama's proposed incentive fund.
(3) ... that a financial plan be developed to address the growing imbalance in the higher education cost-sharing policy between the Commonwealth & in-state students and parents.	Staff has begun to consider data, information, and policies that would be part of the plan.	Staff will analyze and begin to develop a document that will make recommendations on "fixing base adequacy."	Staff intends to have a draft document for Council review in September with approval in October.
(4) .. that the Virginia Guaranteed Assistance Program (VGAP) be promoted through the development of a comprehensive marketing plan supported in partnership with the Commonwealth, private industry, and foundations.	A useful marketing structure is already in place via the Access Challenge Grant.	Staff will work with marketers on ideas and pricing, and with industry and foundations on their roles and participation.	Goal is to have the comprehensive VGAP marketing plan in place by mid-2010.
(5) ... that locally- or regionally-focused pilot "access" programs be created in currently-underserved urban and/or rural areas via public-private partnerships.	Staff has been in informal contact with various foundations and K-12 officials. A part of the Challenge Grant is to survey communities and identify gaps in access programs and services.	Staff expects Danville/Southside to be a reasonable pilot locale. Various avenues of communicating with parents and students are being considered.	Results of the Challenge Grant survey will be available late spring. Staff will begin to work with local communities and groups and foundations over the summer.

