

All Task Force Comments Received on the Financial Aid Working Group Recommendations and Report

November 2016

Recommendation 1:

1. yes
2. This sounds reasonable
3. I agree with this recommendation.
4. not sure if professional schools will be disproportionately effect
5. OK.
6. I appauld this working group for this recommendtion, which is consonant with our mission as an urban University with a reach to a broad range of students
7. YES!! Keep VCU need blind in admission - this is SO important since we are the institution that educates the largest proportion of students with financial need in the Commonwealth. We do not want to start making admission decisions that limit access to education based on family/student finances.
8. Not sure how this could really work
9. Complete agreement.

Recommendation 2:

1. yes
2. This sounds reasonable
3. I agree with this recommendation.
4. not sure if professional schools will be disproportionately effect
5. OK.
6. I agree with this recommendation as it will discourage a rejection of qualified, yet needy, in-state students
7. Also keeps this portion of the model aligned with all the rest - great idea!
8. This recommendation appears reasonable. Question: Will the undergraduate aid that is allocated 'off the top' be limited to those schools receiving undergraduate tuition revenue? Or to all schools, whether they receive undergraduate tuition or not? The decision needs to be conscous and clearly communicated.
9. Agree
10. Complete agreement, assuming I am reading this correctly. I believe it means allocate the cost of the aid, not the aid itself.

Recommendation 3:

1. yes
2. I agree with this recommendation.
3. Seems valid

4. I strong agree.
5. I need to know more about this recommendation. VCU is different from many institutions with very high research activity in that we treat PhD tuition like real money when most of the time it is not. If our goal is to attract the best PhD students to our doctoral programs, we need to make sure that our fiscal policies are helping, and not hindering, that cause.
6. A very fair approach.
7. This recommendation appears reasonable
8. Not sure
9. Same answer as recommendation #2. *[Complete agreement, assuming I am reading this correctly. I believe it means allocate the cost of the aid, not the aid itself.]*

General Comments:

1. Financial aid should be student centric. This policy should be stated as a "value" in the strategic plan and promulgate down to this policy, principle.
2. I assume 100% of endowed scholarship money will go toward directed purpose. Will there still be a tax on this gift money if central costs support development?
3. The assessments and recommendations seem on target without any "competition" occurring between schools/college!

Do have questions/thoughts on tuition waivers. The issue of tuition waivers for employees has not been discussed much during the task force meetings but is an important discussion to provide a recommendation before moving forward. We need to ask, if an employee is seeking a tuition waiver, do funds transfer, from school to school? is it (the cost of a VCU employee) enrolled in course/program a zero sum gain for the unit the employee is enrolled? Would we have to move to a system of "approving" waivers more formally with applications IF the unit is paying for the course(s)? Is there a central pool of funds that could be used since tuition waivers are an HR benefit?

4. How will faculty and staff tuition waivers be handled?
5. I feel strongly about using the off-the-top for financial aid. It makes perfect sense.