

Streamlining Bureaucracy for Better Resource Utilization and Decision-making

Excessive oversight, unnecessary regulations, and redundant levels of approval for many administrative activities often undermine the ability of the Community Colleges to efficiently respond to the needs of students, our business partners and the communities we serve. Meeting these redundant regulatory demands, often from multiple agencies, diverts scarce resources and diminishes our ability meet the workforce and economic development needs of the State. Many state-level mandates could be effectively handled at the agency level in concert with established statutory requirements.

The following policy proposals reflect Governor Malloy's interest in streamlining and efficiency, improved budgetary and fiscal management, creation of jobs and economic security and more effective utilization of educational funding.

Existing provisions for management flexibility have proven to be highly successful for two decades in allowing higher education agencies to make critical decisions efficiently at the agency level and to ensure accountability in:

- managing budgets within a block grant,
- determining and managing position and staffing requirements within budget,
- operating enterprise financial management systems that integrate with critical student registration and financial aid systems,
- establishing procurement policy and managing procurement activities.

Further streamlining in additional areas could improve responsiveness and service delivery, timeliness and efficiency, stewardship of scarce resources, and ultimately our ability to meet the growing demands of students and the constituencies we serve.

Long Term Vision - State administrative policies and procedures which enhance agency decision-making, within a framework of accountability, are better suited to maximize the return on the investment of State resources and the effectiveness of program delivery. The reduction or elimination of excessive and often duplicative oversight would entrust the responsibility for decision-making to those most knowledgeable about institutional operations and the educational services and supporting structures needed by students and other partners in education. Sufficient statutory regulations exist, supported by Board of Trustees' policies and procedures, to ensure and enforce compliance without the substitution of judgment by other agencies without experience or expertise in higher education or community college issues.

Jobs Impact and Other Benefits – More informed and timely decision-making that reflects higher education and community college needs, will allow better utilization of CCC resources, directly impact academic programming, procurement, contracting, staffing and administrative compliance activities that in turn directly impact our ability to work with business and industry and to deliver relevant academic programming to students.