

MEMORANDUM

TO: Performance Report Consultation (including Sub-Committee)
FROM: Rob Sheehan
DATE: August 2, 2000
RE: August 7 Meeting and Materials

Good Afternoon!

We hope to see you Monday, August 7 at the Board of Regents at the statewide consultation on Governor Taft's requested Performance Report. The meeting will be from 10-3 and please rsvp if you have not yet done so.

Regents staff and the Performance Report Sub-Committee have been working hard since our first meeting on March 2 to identify appropriate contents for such a report. We want the report to be responsive to the many purposes and audiences specified in the Governor's request. You may be aware that the members of the Board of Regents, especially members of the Performance Committee of the Board are keenly following the development of this report as well. The report should be helpful to the public in making informed decisions about higher education in Ohio. The report should also help policy makers and campus leaders who are keenly interested in finding appropriate benchmark indicators to ensure high performance campuses.

The report should place the processes and outcomes occurring on Ohio's public campuses into appropriate state and national contexts. The very term "Performance Report" will require explanation as we are all too aware that what appear to be straight forward performance outcomes such as timely graduation or retention occur as a result of many complex factors which may be only partially under the control of campuses. Additionally, even though we can provide definitions which distinguish between processes and outcomes, the public is likely to be as interested in the experiences students are having on campuses as they are on the eventual graduation or employment rates of students.

Attached you will find the latest draft that we will be discussing at the August 7 meeting. The draft suggests a 2 part report and we believe that a printed Executive Summary could point to a web based report. We have spent the past 2 months testing the quality and consistency of the data elements that support the items included in this draft (we will share much of these data elements with you on Monday) and we believe that we can complete a report with such data elements by mid Fall, 2000. The agenda for Monday's meeting then is to finish our discussions about content, and prepare to move on to formatting, development of appropriate text and clarifying language, and development of production databases to complete the report.

We recall our earlier comments that we have been requested to produce an annual report and that the contents of this report might vary from year to year. Your thoughts about this draft for Fall, 2000 or subsequent reports are welcome.