

## Consolidated Notes on 9/10 NC Student Aid Study Group Discussion

### 1. Targeting, simplicity and predictability

#### *Strengths of Existing Programs:*

- Need-based\*\*\*\*\*
- Having one application, FAFSA, simplifies the process\*\*\*\*\*
- Expand beyond students who are Pell-eligible\*
- Smoothing across income categories by blending aid sources\*
- Focus on access\*
- We have programs for both CC and UNC systems
- Willingness and environment to make some positive changes
- Good foundation with which to start making improvements
- CCG is fairly predictable and easy to explain
- Technical plumbing works well
- Opportune time with the beginning of a biennial budget

#### *Areas for Improvement:*

- Simplification\*\*\*\*\*
- Collapse/consolidate programs\*\*\*\*\*
- Year-round awards / summer aid\*\*\*\*\*
- Pro-rate similar to Pell for those part-time students taking less than half-time\*\*\*
- UNC Need-Based Grant is completely incomprehensible\*
- Need to analyze how the combination of Pell + ELS + CC/UNC is meeting needs
- Majority or large numbers of CC students do not take (or can't take b/c of life circumstances) 15 credit hours so they are in a way penalized for this
- Hard to predict what type of aid you will get, especially with the UNC need-based grant
- Increased funding
- Calculate all programs the same way
- Mandate FAFSA for all graduates
- Get aid eligibility charts out early
- Programs are targeting traditional-age students but don't consider the hardships of nontraditional-age students
- CC – remove 15+ requirement
- Combine CCG and UNC NBG into one program that is funded collectively and portable / transferrable to any kind of institution
- Clarify the goals of the different programs – are they being met?
- Timing
- Transparency
- Deciding how to influence behaviors, and which behaviors do we want to influence?
- Amount of aid going to higher income brackets
- Does not meet need at higher cost institutions
- Need to look at current goals for all programs
- Shift from using current year FAFSA to prior year data, we could get awards out earlier

## Consolidated Notes on 9/10 NC Student Aid Study Group Discussion

### 2. Outreach and Accessibility

#### *Strengths of Existing Programs:*

- CFNC\*\*\*\*\*
- Use of FAFSA data\*\*
- Locally we have very detailed charts that are shared with students that show EFC ranges and what they receive in NC grants
- Career coaches and advising corps
- ELS / CCG funded appropriately
- Students automatically considered for grants
- Two strong leaders at the helm to influence positive changes for our students

#### *Areas for Improvement:*

- Marketing campaign\*\*\*\*
- Outreach to students at a younger age\*\*\*
- Better publicity\*
- Simple, engaging resources (i.e. websites, etc)
- Consistent messages that are repeated statewide each year starting in middle school
- Ability to estimate aid (fed + state grant aid)
- Get more students to complete FAFSA, which in turn would increase eligibility for state grants
- Better predictability
- Better knowledge / training for high school counselors
- Invest in more college advisors / career coaches in middle and high schools
- Emphasize programs more
- Create a centralized communication platform for K-16
- Need a recognizable program/brand that consistently delivers a message about affordability
- Need more transparency → avoid sticker shock
- More proactive outreach to families, earlier
- Create a tool for students and families
- Outreach is difficult when programs are hard to explain
- Better outreach for nontraditional students
- Campuses need to share information
- Let students know that aid covers more than just tuition
- Workforce that is so desperately needed is really dependent on our systems to produce the graduates/workforce they need
- North Carolina economy needs us to do this work quickly and be successful

## Consolidated Notes on 9/10 NC Student Aid Study Group Discussion

### 3. Optimizing Aid for Student Success

#### *Strengths of Existing Programs:*

- Fulltime Plus concept at CC\*\*
- SAP\*
- Helps pay for items beyond tuition and fees
- Summer aid
- Maximizes federal aid

#### *Areas for Improvement:*

- Proration should be based on credit hours\*\*\*
- Connect to guided pathways\*\*
- Use grants to influence behaviors associated with student success\*
- Create incentives for students to stay on pace, or get back on pace to graduate\*
- Providing more aid dependent on academic progress
- The amount of Pell grant should be eliminated from the formula
- Expand the EFC for the lottery (use the CC model)
- Based on lifetime limits consider credit-hour progression
- Change from 12 credits to 15 credits = full time
- No data readily available to measure success of aid programs
- Connect aid to student performance?
- CCG F/T Plus is confusing and causes students to overreach on credits
- Grants should be year-round
- Consider appropriate progress for chosen program of study
- Is award enough to make a difference?
- Increase funding for successful students

### 4. Support for non-traditional aged students

#### *Strengths of Existing Programs:*

- Funding available to higher EFCs, not just Pell-eligible students
- Dependent and Independent are treated the same
- Programs don't exclude nontraditional students
- Not linked to high school success, or prior academic achievement

#### *Areas for Improvement:*

- Providing support for adult / independent students\*\*
- Assist with funds for part-time enrollment, address the less than ½ time issue\*\*
- Providing adult students with more information / more outreach\*
- Simplify\*
- Provide summer aid
- Dependent and Independent are treated the same
- Does not consider housing/food and supplies/tools required for high-tech programs
- Federal methodology for EFC for independent students flawed
- FAFSA is a barrier for them