



Tab 23

Mission Review Update

Coordinating Board for Higher Education
December 12, 2018

BACKGROUND

The Missouri Department of Higher Education and the Coordinating Board for Higher Education were established by a 1972 amendment to the Missouri Constitution (Article IV, Section 52). Subsequent legislation granted specific powers and responsibilities to the CBHE, most of which are explicitly directed at the coordination of public higher education in Missouri. The CBHE has several statutory responsibilities related to institutional missions, including developing a statewide plan for higher education (§ 173.005 RSMo), conducting every five years a review of the missions for all Missouri public institutions of higher education (§ 173.030 RSMo), recommending mission changes (§ 173.005 RSMo), approving proposals for new academic programs (§ 173.005 RSMo), establishing admissions guidelines consistent with institutional missions (§ 173.005 RSMo), collecting and developing comparable data for all institutions of higher education to delineate areas of competences and other purposes (§ 173.005 RSMo), conducting studies of population and enrollment (§ 173.005 RSMo), and identifying higher education needs in the state (§ 173.005 RSMo). Mission review also is important to achieving several goals of the *Blueprint for Higher Education*:

- Goal 1.1 Implement new policies and initiatives that help all students earn a degree or certificate in less time and at less cost, while enabling graduates to enter the workforce sooner.
- Goal 1.4 Seek participation in flexible educational programs by adult students, including veterans; individuals seeking new job skills; and those with some college but no degree.

The CBHE delegates its responsibility for mission review to the Department of Higher Education. The review, per statute, is based on the needs of the state's citizens; the requirements of business, industry, the professions, and government; and is intended to ensure higher education is responsive to state needs, is focused, balanced, and cost-effective, and provides high quality programs. Developing clear missions and service areas are essential elements of the revised academic program approval process, which was a recommendation made by the System Review Task Force in 2016. It is also factors in to statewide planning and making efficient use of state resources. The goal of mission review is to fairly reflect each institution's role and scope within the state's system of higher education. This agenda item provides an update on the status of mission review.

CURRENT STATUS

In September MDHE staff sent to the chief academic officer of each public college and university in draft form a proposed CBHE-approved mission description for review and comment. Academic Affairs staff drafted this proposed CBHE-approved mission description by drawing on several sources, including Missouri Revised Statutes, the role and scope recommendations provided by the National Center for Higher Education Management Systems (NCHEMS) during the 2016 Higher Education System Review, and a statistical profile for each institution developed by MDHE staff and based on data reported through EMSAS and IPEDS.

MDHE staff has received feedback from many institutions and are close to completing a final version of the CBHE-approved mission description for most institutions. Staff also received feedback on several broader issues that will require additional discussion and will not be resolved by the December CBHE meeting, the original target date for completing mission review. MDHE staff has tentatively set the March CBHE meeting as the completion date, at which time the board will consider all proposed CBHE-approved mission descriptions.

Based on feedback from various institutions, MDHE staff also recommends the following modifications to the substance and "look" of the CBHE-approved mission descriptions:

1. The institution's governing board-approved mission will be included alongside the CBHE-approved mission description.
2. Designated service areas/regions will be dropped from each university's and State Technical College's CBHE-approved mission description. The community colleges are developing voluntary service regions, which will be incorporated into their CBHE-approved mission descriptions.
3. To address the geographic component embedded in academic program review for the universities and State Tech, any proposal for a new academic program offered other than on the main campus will be directed to a "middle path" review, something more than a Routine but not a full Comprehensive review. The voluntary service regions being developed by the Missouri Community College Association will be used for the community colleges.
4. The "middle path" review will be used to ensure other institutions are both aware of and accepting of the proposed program. Once confirmed, a "middle path" review would be expedited for the commissioner's approval (as is the case for Routine reviews). In most cases, "middle path" proposals will be approved within the same timeframe as routine reviews. Some proposals may raise concerns, but in most cases these concerns can be addressed without a full comprehensive review. In rare circumstances, a comprehensive review might be required to make a sound determination. Details will need to be added to this framework, and MDHE staff will seek input on defining this "middle path" fully.
5. Establishing admissions guidelines consistent with institutional missions will require a more thorough review of selectivity and admissions criteria. This process is ongoing.

The timeline for completing CBHE-approved mission descriptions is as follows:

November 1, 2018- January 31, 2019	MDHE staff and individual institutions continue one-on-one conversations to finalize the CBHE-approved mission descriptions.
	MDHE staff will work with institutional representatives to develop appropriate admissions guidelines.
February 1, 2019	The final version of each institution's CBHE-approved mission description will be completed in preparation for the Coordinating Board's review at its March meeting.
March 6, 2019	The CBHE will consider approval of each institution's CBHE-approved mission description.

RECOMMENDATION

This is an information item only.

NO ATTACHMENTS