

WESTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

October 17, 2008

Performance Report
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All Illinois colleges and universities annually submit *Performance Reports* to the Illinois Board of Higher Education (IBHE) documenting institutional progress on implementing the six common goals for Illinois higher education. These six goals (economic development, educational partnerships, affordability, diversity, assessment, and quality) are stated in the IBHE's statewide strategic plan for higher education, entitled: *The Illinois Commitment: Partnerships, Opportunities, and Excellence*.

However, there will be no *Performance Reports* for Fiscal Year 2008. Beginning in academic year 2007-2008 and continuing in academic year 2008-2009, the Illinois Board of Higher Education is in the process of updating its strategic plan for higher education, re-titled *The Public Agenda*. Preliminary goals of the updated strategic plan are focusing on student preparation, participation, affordability, degree completion, research and economic development, and student learning outcomes.

As part of annual performance reporting, institutions were required to benchmark institutional performance against peer institutions to evaluate institutional effectiveness and contributions to statewide goals and priorities. In academic year 2004-2005, the Assistant to the President for Planning and Budget received endorsement from all campus governance groups in Macomb and the Quad Cities and approval from the Western Illinois University Board of Trustees to use peer groups for general university benchmarking (e.g., retention and graduation rates), with the understanding that discipline-based peer groups are set by academic departments and salary groups are set either by contractual agreement or recruitment area for non-negotiated employees.

The *Public Agenda* reaffirms the State's commitment to benchmarking, and the IBHE asked colleges and universities to work with the National Center for Higher Education Management Systems to update the general university benchmarking groups to empirically similar institutions of the same Carnegie Classifications with similar profiles of enrollment, demographic characteristics and program mix, while respecting geographic diversity and not including in-state comparisons for purposes of *Public Agenda* reporting.

The table on the next page displays Western Illinois University-Macomb and Quad Cities peer groups used in *Performance Reporting* and what is proposed for future *Public Agenda* reporting. For the latter, the display includes institutions that continue from performance reports and new institutions that are programmatically and empirically similar to the University; institutions that are no longer comparable to

Western were removed. The Quad Cities Campus is allowed to include the University of Illinois-Springfield and Governors State University, as there are limited institutions nationally that primarily focus on junior, senior, and graduate student instruction.

The Vice President for Quad Cities, Planning and Technology has received endorsement from all campus governance groups on both University campuses to use these peer groups for general University comparisons, again with the understanding that there are different peer groups for salary comparisons, programmatic peer groups are set by colleges and departments, and state funding and accreditation comparisons will include Illinois public universities. With the Board's concurrence, different policy questions and contexts will continue to use the most appropriate peer group for comparative purposes.

Macomb Campus Peer Groups

Public Agenda Peer Group			
<u>Performance Report Peer Group</u>	<u>Continuing</u>	<u>New</u>	<u>Removed</u>
Appalachian State	Appalachian State	California State-Bernardino	California State-Chico
California State-Chico	James Madison	Central Washington	Eastern Illinois
Eastern Illinois	Missouri State	Montclair State	Southern Illinois-Edwardsville
James Madison	Northern Iowa	Sam Houston State	Towson
Missouri State	Western Kentucky	SUNY at Buffalo	Truman State
Northern Iowa	Western Washington	North Carolina-Wilmington	
Southern Illinois-Edwardsville		Wisconsin-Whitewater	
Towson University			
Truman State			
Western Kentucky			
Western Washington			

Quad Cities Campus Peer Groups

Public Agenda Peer Group			
<u>Performance Report Peer Group</u>	<u>Continuing</u>	<u>New</u>	<u>Removed</u>
Governors State	Houston-Clear Lake	Pennsylvania State-Harrisburg	--
Illinois-Springfield	Texas A&M-Texarkana		
Houston-Clear Lake	University of Baltimore	Texas A&M-International	
Texas A&M-Texarkana	Arizona State-West		
University of Baltimore	Governors State		
Arizona State-West	Illinois-Springfield		