

Meeting summary

Date: July 21, 2015

Time: 10 a.m. to noon

Place: Jerry Sue Thornton Center at Cuyahoga Community College, 2500 E. 22nd St, Cleveland.

Task force members attending:

- **Chair:** Geoff Chatas, senior vice president and CFO, The Ohio State University
- Patrick Auletta, president emeritus, KeyBank
- Rep. Dan Ramos, D-Lorain
- Mark T. Small, senior vice president and CFO, Cleveland Construction
- On behalf of Sen. Keith Faber, R-Celina: Sen. Chris Widener, R-Springfield
- Sen. Sandra Williams, D- Cleveland

Summary

The task force focused its second meeting on opportunities related to joint procurement and reducing the time to degree. Alex Johnson, president of Cuyahoga Community College, welcomed the task force and provided insights on his institution's approach to affordability.

Much of the procurement discussion was framed by data collected by the task force since its June meeting. In particular, the task force worked with the IUC Purchasing Group to better understand the largest areas of procurement spend among Ohio institutions. The task force also worked with the Ohio Department of Education to survey the state's public colleges and universities on possible action steps for both joint procurement and reducing the time to degree.

Huron Consulting Group helped to frame possible procurement opportunities based on its national expertise and the IUC Purchasing Group survey. Huron suggested some initial categories where there might be opportunities, as well as a process for weighing each opportunity vs. its difficulty to implement. In some cases, Geoff Chatas noted, Ohio institutions already have voluntary joint purchasing agreements but there may be further opportunities.

Geoff Chatas then shared the most common action steps that Ohio public colleges and universities recommended would be worth considering on the procurement front.

Based on that discussion, the task force asked its research team to continue to flesh out the scope, difficulty and possible savings of those opportunities, including natural gas procurement, IT hosting at the State of Ohio Computer Center, shared services and financial services.

The time to degree discussion was primarily framed by presentations from a four-year school (Cleveland State University) and a two-year institution (Cuyahoga Community College) about efforts on their campuses to reduce time to degree. In particular, both institutions have created incentive programs that provide discounts or other financial incentives to students who take enough credit hours to be on a path to graduation.

Chatas also shared some of the most common ideas presented by Ohio's public colleges and universities in response to the task force survey. The task force indicated that these areas deserve further study.

Presentations

- Overview and today's goals – Geoff Chatas
- Procurement opportunities and expense overview – Huron Consulting Group
- Spotlight: Graduation Incentive Plan – Cleveland State University
- Spotlight: Affordability and Efficiency – Cuyahoga Community College

The task force concluded the meeting with an opportunity for each member to offer closing thoughts. The following includes some of those comments, as well as ideas raised earlier:

- **Auletta:** Joint procurement opportunities should be weighed on annual spend, difficulty and potential savings. Need for benchmarking related to best in class,
- **Chatas:** Procurement opportunities are more than joint agreements
- **Ramos:** Need to focus on excellence. Consider co-location of university programs at community college campuses. Need to tie savings to affordability for students
- **Small:** Task force should discuss utilization of physical properties and tenure/faculty productivity incentives.
- **Widener:** A key measure of Ohio's affordability is progress on 2+2 programs that ease the path from 2-year degrees to 4-year degrees. Should measure low-enrollment programs. Consider BRAC-style process for Ohio regional campuses and consider their relationship to community colleges.
- **Williams:** Consider a type of "university DAS" to perform administrative functions. Focus on incentives on graduate students as well as undergraduates to complete.

Next meeting

- Aug. 17, 1 p.m. 3:30 p.m., at the University of Cincinnati. Topics include:
 - Asset optimization
 - Low-enrollment programs
 - Academic productivity