

COMMUNITY COLLEGE OF PHILADELPHIA
STUDENT OUTCOMES COMMITTEE OF THE
BOARD OF TRUSTEES

MINUTES
Thursday, May 3, 2012
1:30 p.m. – M2-34

Presiding: Ms. Stacy Holland
Present: Dr. Stephen Curtis, Ms. Varsovia Fernandez, Dr. Judith Gay, Dr. Samuel Hirsch, Ms. Dorothy Sumners Rush
Guests: Dr. Ron Jackson, Mr. David Watters

(1) Executive Session

No Executive Session was held.

(2) Public Session

(a) Approval of the Minutes of March 1, 2012

The minutes were accepted.

(b) Proposed 2012-13 Student Activities, Athletics, and Commencement Budget (Action Item)

Dr. Hirsch introduced Dr. Ron Jackson, Dean of Students and Mr. David Watters, Assistant Dean of Students/Director of Student Life. Mr. Watters reviewed the budget assumptions and rationale for the proposed 2012-13 Budget for Student Activities, Athletics, and Commencement. He indicated that individual budget lines were essentially at level funding and that no major changes were being proposed.

Mr. Watters explained the Athletics portion of the budget by highlighting the dissolution of the Eastern Pennsylvania Collegiate Conference (EPCC) for most sports and that for 2012-13 the College will be an independent/non-affiliated school for most sports. Men's Soccer and Cross Country will continue to compete as EPCC league members. The reduction of \$10,000 from Men's Basketball takes into account no post-season play as the College will not be participating in any Conference. The increase of \$10,000 in Co-Ed Intramural is to fund the proposed implementation of Co-Ed bowling which is an EPCC sport. Dr. Hirsch indicated that the College will begin the process this coming year of realigning intercollegiate-athletics to transition to the National Junior College Athletic Association (NJCAA) to go into effect fall 2013. This will have budget

implications for 2013-14 due to the data collection requirements of NJCAA and the need to potentially cover cross-country team travel.

Ms. Sumners Rush asked if the College has established academic standards for athletes. Dr. Jackson explained the academic requirements that are currently in place and indicated that due to NJCAA's higher academic requirements the College is planning to put in place additional academic support to ensure athletes maintain positive academic performance.

Ms. Holland questioned the increase in net profits. Mr. Watters responded that while the budget is based on a 4% enrollment decrease, net profits from auxiliary services such as the bookstore are projected to increase by approximately 17% over the current year.

Action: The Student Outcomes Committee of the Board agreed to recommend to the full Board approval of the proposed 2012-13 Budget for Student Activities, Athletics, and Commencement.

(c) Financial Aid Regulations Update

Dr. Hirsch reviewed the 2012-13 Changes to Title IV Student Aid Programs document. He noted that while the current maximum Pell award of \$5,550 will remain the same for next year new regulations are beginning to restrict financial aid eligibility. This seems to be a trend beginning with this year. Dr. Curtis indicated that while the restrictions may only impact a few hundred students now, over time the impact could be significant in terms of eroding access for students into higher education.

Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Student Outcomes Committee is scheduled for Thursday, **June 7, 2012** at **1:30 p.m.** in M2-34.

Attachments

Minutes of March1, 2012
Summary of Proposed 2012-13 Student Activities, Athletics, and Commencement Budget – Table VII-A
Detailed Proposed 2012-13 Student Activities, Athletics, and Commencement Budget – Table VII-B
Proposed 2012-13 Student Activities, Athletics, and Commencement Budget Assumptions and Rationale
2012-13 Changes to Title IV Student Aid Programs

STUDENT OUTCOMES COMMITTEE OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

MINUTES

Thursday, March 1, 2012

1:30 p.m. - M2-34

Presiding: Ms. Stacy Holland
Present: Ms. Helen Cunningham, Dr. Stephen Curtis, Ms. Varsovia Fernandez,
Dr. Judith Gay, Ms. Lydia Hernández Vélez, Dr. Samuel Hirsch, and
Dr. James Roebuck
Guest: Dr. Mary Anne Celenza

(1) Executive Session

The Committee was informed of the activities of the faculty recommended for merit promotion. An overview of the selection criteria was provided.

Action: The Student Outcomes Committee of the Board agreed to recommend to the full Board acceptance of the recommended list of faculty for promotion.

(2) Public Session

a) Approval of Minutes of February 2, 2012 (Action Item)

The minutes were accepted.

b) Culture, Science and Technology Audit Follow-up Report (Action Item)

Dr. Celenza was asked to offer an opinion of the progress of the program to date. Dr. Celenza stated that the Curriculum Coordinator, Laura Davidson, printed out 5,000 plus data sheets to get a sense of the student profile. She also pulled together a conversation with Counseling and Advising. Based on the steps followed, she and Laura Davidson concluded that one strategy will not fit all students. They want to bring other resources, primarily from Student Life, into the conversation.

Board members stated that they believed the document provided seemed light for a follow up report. There are potentially rich collaborations possible but it is not obvious in the document.

Dr. Celenza responded that they do have a clear vision of a health track and a science track. She and Laura Davidson believe they need to explore further because the work needed for the program crosses areas at the College. A big

concern is the student who may never get into a health or science program. Many students come in looking for a career. Dr. Celenza stated that the next steps are: (1) put in place the next steps; (2) get the health and science pieces figured out; and, (3) engage in broader conversations related to developmental education.

Board members discussed whether the program is set up for students who are not transferring. Dr. Celenza responded that we need to factor in who the students are who are entering the program.

Board members stated that they need more specificity and context in the follow up reports. The document should tell the story of the program.

For the June update, the Board expects clarity on interventions (particularly for recommendation #5 related to developmental education).

Action: None

c) Financial Aid Regulations Update (Information Item)

The agenda item was deferred to a future meeting.

Next Meeting:

The next meeting of the Student Outcomes Committee of the Board is scheduled for Thursday, April 5, 2012 at noon (Jane S. Abrahams Award Interviews and Selections) in room M2-34.

Attachments:

Minutes of February 2, 2012
Culture, Science and Technology Audit Follow-up Report

TABLE VII-A

STUDENT ACTIVITIES, ATHLETICS & COMMENCEMENT BUDGET FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2012-13 (WITH COMPARISON TO FISCAL YEARS 2010-11 AND 2011-12)

	2010-11 <u>Actual</u>	Approved 2011-2012 <u>Budget</u>	Revised 2011-2012 <u>Budget</u>	Proposed 2012-2013 <u>Budget</u>	Variance From 2011-12 Revised <u>Budget</u>	% Change From 2011-12 <u>Revised</u>
REVENUES						
General College Fee	\$1,605,308	\$1,638,254	1,583,232	\$1,536,697	(\$46,535)	(2.9)
Graduation Fees	53,280	57,000	53,300	57,000	3,700	6.9
Auxiliary Profits	593,017	545,568	636,334	659,761	23,427	3.7
Revenues from Activities	<u>178,520</u>	<u>165,000</u>	<u>165,000</u>	<u>165,000</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0.0</u>
TOTAL REVENUES	<u><u>\$2,430,125</u></u>	<u><u>\$2,405,822</u></u>	<u><u>\$2,437,866</u></u>	<u><u>\$2,418,458</u></u>	<u><u>(\$19,408)</u></u>	<u><u>(0.8)</u></u>
EXPENDITURES						
Student Publications	\$87,786	\$90,063	\$90,063	\$90,346	\$283	0.3
Campus Programming	269,004	125,000	116,631	125,209	8,578	7.4
Performing Arts	25,968	29,000	29,000	29,500	500	1.7
Student Support	230,020	161,410	173,310	161,500	(11,810)	(6.8)
Student Leadership & Involvement	215,317	135,095	135,564	135,519	(45)	(0.0)
Athletics	343,468	315,222	330,683	316,211	(14,472)	(4.4)
Contingency	0	45,032	25,571	45,173	19,602	76.7
First Year Student Success	132,135	180,000	180,000	180,000	0	0.0
Childcare Support	0	6,000	6,000	6,000	0	0.0
Commencement	150,292	145,000	145,000	145,000	0	0.0
Renovation Projects	2,021	0	0	0	0	0.0
Staff	1,096,985	1,174,000	1,174,000	1,184,000	10,000	0.9
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	<u><u>\$2,552,996</u></u>	<u><u>\$2,405,822</u></u>	<u><u>\$2,405,822</u></u>	<u><u>\$2,418,458</u></u>	<u><u>\$12,636</u></u>	<u><u>0.5</u></u>

TABLE VII-B

STUDENT ACTIVITIES, ATHLETICS & COMMENCEMENT BUDGET FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2012-13
(WITH COMPARISON TO FISCAL YEARS 2010-11 AND 2011-12)

	Final 2010-11 <u>Expenses</u>	Approved 2011-2012 <u>Budget</u>	Revised 2011-2012 <u>Budget</u>	Proposed 2012-2013 <u>Budget</u>	Variance from 2011-12 Approved <u>Budget</u>	% Change from 2011-12 <u>Approved</u>	Variance from 2011-12 Revised <u>Budget</u>	% Change from 2010-11 <u>Revised</u>
<u>STUDENT PUBLICATIONS</u>								
Student Vanguard	\$40,671	\$41,063	\$41,063	\$41,346	\$283	0.7	\$283	0.7
Limited Editions	7,659	7,000	7,000	7,000	0	0.0	0	0.0
CAP Magazine	3,019	7,000	7,000	7,000	0	0.0	0	0.0
ESL Magazine	9,906	7,000	7,000	7,000	0	0.0	0	0.0
Student Handbook	26,531	28,000	28,000	28,000	0	0.0	0	0.0
<i>Guideline - 10%</i>								
<i>Actual - 10%</i>	<u>87,786</u>	<u>90,063</u>	<u>90,063</u>	<u>90,346</u>	<u>283</u>	<u>0.3</u>	<u>283</u>	<u>0.3</u>
<u>CAMPUS PROGRAMMING</u>								
Concert and Museum Tickets	135,867	22,000	31,000	22,209	209	1.0	(8,791)	(28.4)
Films	3,046	1,000	1,000	1,000	0	0.0	0	0.0
Lectures	44,490	18,000	17,631	6,000	(12,000)	(66.7)	(11,631)	(66.0)
Concerts	14,459	12,000	12,000	7,000	(5,000)	(41.7)	(5,000)	(41.7)
Theatre Tickets	25,476	19,000	10,000	19,000	0	0.0	9,000	90.0
Art Exhibits	6,845	7,000	7,000	7,000	0	0.0	0	0.0
Special Theme Programs	9,560	12,000	12,000	29,000	17,000	141.7	17,000	141.7
Regional Centers	29,262	34,000	26,000	34,000	0	0.0	8,000	30.8
<i>Guideline - 15%</i>								
<i>Actual - 13.9%</i>	<u>269,004</u>	<u>125,000</u>	<u>116,631</u>	<u>125,209</u>	<u>209</u>	<u>0.2</u>	<u>8,578</u>	<u>7.4</u>
<u>PERFORMING ARTS</u>								
Spirit / Pep Band	500	2,500	2,500	1,500	(1,000)	(40.0)	(1,000)	(40.0)
Theatrical Productions	12,789	12,000	12,000	13,000	1,000	8.3	1,000	8.3
Spoken Word - Student Performances	6,894	8,000	8,000	8,000	0	0.0	0	0.0
Musical Events Licensing	5,785	6,500	6,500	7,000	500	7.7	500	
<i>Guideline - 5%</i>								
<i>Actual - 3.3%</i>	<u>25,968</u>	<u>29,000</u>	<u>29,000</u>	<u>29,500</u>	<u>500</u>	<u>1.7</u>	<u>500</u>	<u>1.7</u>

TABLE VII-B

STUDENT ACTIVITIES, ATHLETICS & COMMENCEMENT BUDGET FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2012-13
(WITH COMPARISON TO FISCAL YEARS 2010-11 AND 2011-12)

	Final 2010-11 <u>Expenses</u>	Approved 2011-2012 <u>Budget</u>	Revised 2011-2012 <u>Budget</u>	Proposed 2012-2013 <u>Budget</u>	Variance from 2011-12 Approved <u>Budget</u>	% Change from 2011-12 <u>Approved</u>	Variance from 2011-12 Revised <u>Budget</u>	% Change from 2010-11 <u>Revised</u>
<u>STUDENT SUPPORT</u>								
Awards and Certificates	1,691	1,000	1,000	1,000	0	0.0	0	0.0
Hospitality	0	0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Advertising and Marketing	9,713	6,500	6,500	6,500	0	0.0	0	0.0
Co-Curricular Cultural & Educational Trips	82,628	36,910	52,910	37,000	90	0.2	(15,910)	(30.1)
Student Involvement	39,375	28,000	23,900	28,000	0	0.0	4,100	17.2
Leadership Training	44,548	32,000	32,000	32,000	0	0.0	0	0.0
Student Ambassador	52,065	56,000	56,000	56,000	0	0.0	0	0.0
Health & Wellness Programs	0	1,000	1,000	1,000	0	0.0	0	0.0
	<i>Guideline - 15%</i>							
	<i>Actual - 17.9%</i>							
	<u>230,020</u>	<u>161,410</u>	<u>173,310</u>	<u>161,500</u>	<u>90</u>	<u>0.1</u>	<u>(11,810)</u>	<u>(6.8)</u>
<u>STUDENT LEADERSHIP & INVOLVEMENT</u>	<u>215,317</u>	<u>135,095</u>	<u>135,564</u>	<u>135,519</u>	<u>424</u>	<u>0.3</u>	<u>(45)</u>	<u>(0.0)</u>
	<i>Guideline - 15%</i>							
	<i>Actual - 15%</i>							
<u>STAFF</u>								
Student Activities	629,013	753,000	753,000	756,000	3,000	0.4	3,000	0.4
Faculty Advisors	70,410	74,000	74,000	70,000	(4,000)	(5.4)	-4,000	(5.4)
Athletics	397,562	347,000	347,000	358,000	11,000	3.2	11,000	3.2
	<i>(48.9% of total funds)</i>							
	<u>1,096,985</u>	<u>1,174,000</u>	<u>1,174,000</u>	<u>1,184,000</u>	<u>10,000</u>	<u>0.9</u>	<u>10,000</u>	<u>2.9</u>
<u>CONTINGENCY (OSA)</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>29,270</u>	<u>25,270</u>	<u>29,362</u>	<u>92</u>	<u>0.3</u>	<u>4,092</u>	<u>16.2</u>

TABLE VII-B

STUDENT ACTIVITIES, ATHLETICS & COMMENCEMENT BUDGET FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2012-13
(WITH COMPARISON TO FISCAL YEARS 2010-11 AND 2011-12)

	Final 2010-11 <u>Expenses</u>	Approved 2011-2012 <u>Budget</u>	Revised 2011-2012 <u>Budget</u>	Proposed 2012-2013 <u>Budget</u>	Variance from 2011-12 Approved <u>Budget</u>	% Change from 2011-12 <u>Approved</u>	Variance from 2011-12 Revised <u>Budget</u>	% Change from 2010-11 <u>Revised</u>
<u>ATHLETICS</u>								
General Athletic Support	7,788	6,500	18,500	7,500	1,000	15.4	(11,000)	(59.5)
Men's Varsity Basketball	58,258	50,000	50,000	40,000	(10,000)	(20.0)	(10,000)	(20.0)
Men's Baseball	19,323	23,000	23,000	20,000	(3,000)	(13.0)	(3,000)	(13.0)
Men's Soccer	29,433	21,000	28,400	24,000	3,000	14.3	(4,400)	(15.5)
Women's Soccer	0	0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Co-Ed Cross Country	58,358	48,006	48,006	48,000	(6)	(0.0)	(6)	(0.0)
Women's Basketball	34,973	40,000	38,000	40,000	0	0.0	2,000	5.3
Women's Volleyball	13,246	15,000	13,100	15,000	0	0.0	1,900	14.5
Women's Softball	438	5,500	0	5,500	0	0.0	5,500	0.0
Cheerleading	7,837	6,000	6,000	6,000	0	0.0	0	0.0
Co-Ed Tennis	18,519	10,000	10,000	10,000	0	0.0	0	0.0
Co-Ed Intramurals	31,986	19,000	19,000	29,000	10,000	52.6	10,000	52.6
Co-Ed Aerobics	11,376	17,000	17,000	17,000	0	0.0	0	0.0
Co-Ed Martial Arts	0	0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Insurance	33,902	34,000	39,461	34,000	0	0.0	(5,461)	(13.8)
Medical Services	1,134	6,000	6,000	6,000	0	0.0	0	0.0
Advertising and Marketing	2,624	1,000	1,000	1,000	0	0.0	0	0.0
Athletic Equipment	14,273	13,216	13,216	13,211	(5)	(0.0)	(5)	(0.0)
<i>Guideline - 35%</i>								
<i>Actual - 35%</i>	<u>343,468</u>	<u>315,222</u>	<u>330,683</u>	<u>316,211</u>	<u>989</u>	<u>0.3</u>	<u>(14,472)</u>	<u>(4.4)</u>
<u>CONTINGENCY</u> (<i>Guideline-5% ; Actual-5%</i>)	0	<u>15,762</u>	<u>301</u>	<u>15,811</u>	<u>49</u>	<u>0.3</u>	<u>15,510</u>	<u>5,152.8</u>
SUBTOTAL	<u>2,268,548</u>	<u>2,074,822</u>	<u>2,074,822</u>	<u>2,087,458</u>	<u>12,636</u>	<u>0.6</u>	<u>12,636.0</u>	<u>0.6</u>
First Year Student Success	132,135	180,000	180,000	180,000	0	0.0	0	0.0
Childcare Support	0	6,000	6,000	6,000	0	0.0	0	0.0
Commencement	150,292	<u>145,000</u>	<u>145,000</u>	<u>145,000</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0.0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0.0</u>
Student Activities Renovation Proj	<u>2,021</u>							
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	<u>\$2,552,996</u>	<u>\$2,405,822</u>	<u>\$2,405,822</u>	<u>\$2,418,458</u>	<u>\$12,636</u>	<u>0.5</u>	<u>\$12,636</u>	<u>0.5</u>

**Community College of Philadelphia
Student Affairs**

2012-13 Student Activities, Athletics, and Commencement Budget

Budgeting Assumptions and Rationale

<i>Revenue Sources (FY13 Proposed)</i>	<i>(FY12 Approved)</i>
· General College Fee: \$1,539,697	(6.2% decrease over FY12)
· Revenue from Activities: \$165,000	(0% increase over FY12)
· Net Profits from Bookstore/Cafeteria: \$659,761	(17.3% increase over FY12)
· Graduation Fee: \$57,000	(0% increase over FY12)
· Net increase of \$12,636 over FY12 Approved (0.1%)	
· Net decrease of \$19,408 over FY12 Revised (0.1%)	

Budget Lines

<u>Percentages</u>	<u>Guidelines</u>	<u>FY12</u>	<u>FY13</u>
Student Publications	10%	10.0%	10.0%
Campus Programming	15%	13.9%	13.9%
Performing Arts	5%	3.2%	3.3%
Student Support	15%	17.9%	17.9%
Student Lead./Involv.	15%	15.0%	15.0%
Athletics	35%	35.0%	35.0%
Contingency	<u>5%</u>	<u>5.0%</u>	<u>5.0%</u>
	100%	100.0%	100.1%

Individual Budget Lines

With a basically flat funding level projected, no major changes are being proposed. Slight increases in various individual lines account for the overall \$12,636 increase over the FY12 approved budget.

**Staff (48.9% of funds; up from 48.7% in FY11)
(Increase of \$10,000)**

- Fringe Benefit increases
- Salary increases
- Overall lower salaries for four administrative new hires compared to last year (Director and Coordinator, Athletics; Coordinators of Regional Centers and Marketing, Student Life)

The increase in net overall **staff salaries** reflects the full-year funding of all positions in Student Life and Athletics in this budget. This includes both salaries and full cost of all fringe benefits. Increased cost of fringe benefits is largely off-set by lower initial salaries for four new administrative hires. The net increase in Athletics staff is a result of re-funding one of the two part-time Athletics Aide positions that was left out of the budget projection last year (but was covered this year by the lapsed salary dollars from the administrative positions). One Classified position was reclassified by Human Resources moving from Grade 5 to Grade 6. Faculty Advisor positions for Student Government Association and for Phi Theta Kappa rewritten and overall faculty extended time reduced.

There is a slight **INCREASE** in the percentage of funds, as compared to current year budget, dedicated to Staff: from 48.7% to 48.9% of total funds.

Student Publications (Guideline - 10%; Actual - 10%)

(Increase of \$283; 0.3%)

Minimal impact on current programmatic levels. Discussions have begun with three literary magazines to lower overall cost while maintaining unique character of each publication. Student Handbook is being funded at level of prior years' actual costs. Have elected to maintain version of current handbook. Student input overwhelmingly was to maintain hard-copy book and new version implemented this current year.

Campus Programming (Guideline - 15%; Actual – 13.9%)

(Increase of \$209; 0.2%)

Level funding overall in all programming lines. Note however: Former "International Festival Week" line item re-named "Special Theme Programs." This line will now contain major, campus-wide collaborative programs formerly housed in "Campus Lectures" and "Campus Concerts." In addition to International Festival, programs such as Spring Poets and Writers Series, Law and Society Week, Hispanic Heritage Month, and African Diaspora Heritage Month will be consolidated into this programming line.

Performing Arts (Guideline – 5%; Actual 3.3%)

(Increase of \$500)

Increase from 3.2% to 3.3% of programmatic budget. Jazz Band is being discontinued. As a part of the programmatic goal to increase school spirit, a "Spirit Band" or "Pep Band" is being proposed. The Musical Events line is used to pay for BMI/SESAC/ASCAP royalties.

Student Support (Guideline – 15%; Actual 17.9%)

(Increase of \$90; 0.1%)

No programmatic funding changes being proposed. "Health & Wellness Programs": This

line covers student medical costs associated with P&P 308.

**Student Leadership and Involvement (Guideline – 15%; Actual 15%)
(Increase of \$424; 0.3%)**

To maintain 15% guideline, decrease is necessary. This section funds Student Government Association, Phi Theta Kappa, all clubs and organizations.

**Athletics (Guideline 35%; Actual 35%)
(Increase of \$989; 0.3%)**

With the dissolution of the EPCC Athletics Conference for most sports, the College will be an independent / non-affiliated school for most sports for 2012-2013. Men's Soccer and Cross Country will still be competing as EPCC league members. The reduction of \$10,000 from Men's Basketball takes into account no post-season play. The increase of \$10,000 in the Co-Ed Intramural is to fund the proposed adoption of Co-Ed Bowling (an EPCC sport). Men's Baseball will only play a spring season; soccer is hoping to secure improved playing fields for practice and competition.

**Contingency (Guideline - 5%; Actual – 5%)
(Increase of \$141;)**

Increase due to maintain overall 5% guideline (split 35% Athletics and 65% Student Life).

First Year Student Success

Maintaining current year funding level. This budget covers expenses related to programmatic efforts in support of entering and first-year students. This includes Student Orientation and Registration (SOaR), Academic Welcomes, Welcome Week, and Student Involvement Days.

Child Care and Commencement

Maintained current year funding for each budget line. The Child Care budget is needed as a contingency for any charges that might be needed that are not covered with KLC contract or are beyond routine institutional costs (housekeeping, maintenance, etc.)

Commencement budget covers most graduation-related expenses and the May ceremony expenses: student cap/gowns, honor cords/ribbons, printing of programs, hall rental and event production costs.

2012-13 Changes to Title IV Student Aid Programs

On December 23, 2011, President Obama signed into law the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2012. The New law significantly impacts the Federal student aid programs authorized under Title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965.

- **2012-2013 Federal Pell Grant Amounts** - The Act included funds to establish the maximum Federal Pell Grant award for the 2012-2013 Award Year at \$4,860. However, HEA provides for an automatic increase to appropriated Federal Pell Grant maximum award for 2012-2013 of \$690, resulting in a 2012-2013 maximum award of \$5,550.
- **Federal Pell Grant Duration of Eligibility** - The Act amended HEA to reduce the duration of student's eligibility to receive a Federal Pell Grant from 18 semesters (or its equivalent) to 12 semesters (or its equivalent). This provision applies to all Federal Pell Grant eligible students effective with the 2012-2013 award year. The calculation of the duration of a student's eligibility will include all years of the student's receipt of Federal Pell Grant funding. This change in the duration of students' Federal Pell Grant eligibility is not limited only to students who received their first Federal Pell Grant on or after the 2008-2009 award year, as the HEA previously provided when the duration of eligibility was 18 semesters.
- **Auto- Zero Expected Family Contribution (EFC) Income Threshold** - The Act amended the HEA to reduce the income threshold for an automatic zero expected family contribution (EFC) from \$30,000 to \$23,000 for the 2012-2013 award year for both dependent and independent students. Because of statutorily required cost of living updating, the threshold for 2012- 2013 was scheduled to be \$32,000, but now will be \$23,000.
- **Ability-to-Benefit** - The Act amended HEA to eliminate Federal student aid eligibility for students without a "certificate of graduation from a school providing secondary education or the recognized equivalent of such a certificate." Therefore, students who do not have a high school diploma or a recognized equivalent (GED), or do not meet the home school requirements, and who first enroll in a program of study on or after July 1, 2012, will not be eligible to receive Title IV student aid. Students will qualify for Title IV student aid under ability-to-benefit if the student was enrolled in a Title IV eligible program prior to July 1, 2012.
- **Grace Period Interest Subsidy** - The Act amended HEA to temporarily eliminate the interest subsidy provided on District Subsidized Loans during the six month grace period provided to students when they are no longer enrolled on at least a half-time basis. This change will be effective for new Direct Stafford Loans for which the first disbursement is made on or after July 1, 2012, and before July 1, 2014.

SOURCE: US Department of Education, Assistant Secretary, January 18, 2012