

ANNUAL REPORT: ENGINEERING AND COMPUTER SCIENCE INITIATIVE

53B-6-105. Engineering and Computer Technology Initiative.

- (1) The Legislature recognizes that a significant increase in the number of engineering, computer science, and related technology graduates from the state system of higher education is required over the next several years to advance the intellectual, cultural, social, and economic well-being of the state and its citizens.
- (2) (a) (i) The State Board of Regents shall therefore develop, establish, and maintain an Engineering and Computer Science Initiative within the state system of higher education to double the number of graduates in engineering, computer science, and related technology by 2006 and triple the number of graduates by 2009.
 - (ii) The board shall make a rule in accordance with Title 63G, Chapter 3, Utah Administrative Rulemaking Act, providing the criteria for those fields of study that qualify as "related technology" under this section and Sections 53B-6-105.7 and 53B-6-105.9.
- (b) The initiative shall include components that:
 - (i) improve the quality of instructional programs in engineering, computer science, and related technology by providing supplemental monies for equipment purchases; and
 - (ii) provide incentives to:
 - (A) students through a scholarship program under Section 53B-6-105.7; and
 - (B) institutions to hire and retain faculty under Section 53B-6-105.9.
- (3) The increase in program capacity under Subsection (2)(a) shall include funding for new and renovated capital facilities and funding for new engineering and computer science programs.
- (4) The Legislature shall provide an annual appropriation to the State Board of Regents to fund the initiative.

*Amended by Chapter 210, 2009 General Session
Amended by Chapter 370, 2009 General Session*

53B-6-105.5 Technology Initiative Advisory Board -- Composition -- Duties.

- (1) There is created a Technology Initiative Advisory Board to assist and make recommendations to the State Board of Regents in its administration of the Engineering and Computer Science Initiative established under Section 53B-6-105.
- (2) (a) The advisory board shall consist of individuals appointed by the governor from business and industry who have expertise in the areas of engineering, computer science, and related technologies.
 - (b) The advisory board shall select a chair and cochair.
 - (c) The advisory board shall meet at the call of the chair.
 - (d) The State Board of Regents, through the commissioner of higher education, shall provide staff support for the advisory board.
- (3) Members of the advisory board shall receive no compensation for their service on the board, but may receive per diem and expenses incurred in the performance of their duties at rates established by the Division of Finance under Sections 63A-3-106 and 63A-3-107.
- (4) The advisory board shall:
 - (a) make recommendations to the State Board of Regents on the allocation and distribution of monies appropriated to fund:
 - (i) the faculty incentive program established in Section 53B-6-105.9;
 - (ii) equipment purchases required to improve the quality of instructional programs in engineering, computer science, and related technology; and
 - (iii) the scholarship program established in Section 53B-6-105.7.
 - (b) prepare a strategic plan that details actions required by the State Board of Regents to meet the intent of the Engineering and Technology Science Initiative;
 - (c) review and assess engineering, computer science, and related technology programs currently being offered at higher education institutions and their impact on the economic prosperity of the

state;

- (d) provide the State Board of Regents with an assessment and reporting plan that:
 - (i) measures results against expectations under the initiative, including verification of the matching requirements for institutions of higher education to receive monies under Section 53B-6-105.9; and
 - (ii) includes an analysis of market demand for technical employment, program articulation among higher education institutions in engineering, computer science, and related technology, tracking of student placement, student admission to the initiative program by region, transfer rates, and retention in and graduation rates from the initiative program; and

(e) make an annual report of its activities to the State Board of Regents, the Legislature through the Education Interim Committee and the Higher Education Appropriations Subcommittee, and the governor.

- (5) The annual report of the Technology Initiative Advisory Board shall include the summary report of the institutional matches described in Section 53B-6-105.9.

Amended by Chapter 210, 2009 General Session

53B-6-105.7 Initiative student scholarship program.

- (1) (a) There is established an engineering, computer science, and related technology scholarship program as a component of the initiative created in Section 53B-6-105.
 - (b) The program is established to recruit, retain, and train engineering, computer science, and related technology students to assist in providing for and advancing the intellectual and economic welfare of the state.
- (2) (a) The board:
 - (i) may make rules for the overall administration of the scholarship program in accordance with Title 63G, Chapter 3, Utah Administrative Rulemaking Act; and
 - (ii) shall administer the program in consultation with the Technology Initiative Advisory Board created in Section 53B-6-105.5.(b) The board shall also use the following policies and procedures in administering the student scholarship program:
 - (i) students may use scholarship monies at any institution within the state system of higher education that offers an engineering, computer science, or related technology degree;
 - (ii) scholarships shall be given to students who declare an intent to complete a prescribed course of instruction in one of the areas referred to in Subsection (2)(b)(i) and to work in the state after graduation in one of those areas; and
 - (iii) a scholarship may be cancelled at any time by the institution of attendance, if the student fails to make reasonable progress towards obtaining the degree or there appears to be a reasonable certainty that the student does not intend to work in the state upon graduation.
- (3) (a) By June 1 of each year, the Technology Initiative Advisory Board shall recommend to the board a distribution of the scholarship funds to institutions in the state system of higher education, based on a formula.
 - (b) The Technology Initiative Advisory Board shall develop the formula for distribution of total scholarship funds to the institutions, which shall contain the following components:
 - (i) the number of graduates of engineering, computer science, and related technology degrees from the previous year;
 - (ii) the number and level of engineering, computer science, and related technology degrees offered at an institution; and
 - (iii) the length of each engineering, computer science, and related technology degree offered at an institution.
- (4) The Legislature shall make an annual appropriation to the board to fund the student scholarship program created in this section.

Amended by Chapter 210, 2009 General Session

53B-6-105.9 Incentive program for engineering, computer science, and related technology faculty.

- (1) The Legislature shall provide an annual appropriation to help fund the faculty incentive component of the Engineering and Computer Science Initiative established under Section 53B-6-105.
- (2) The appropriation shall be used to hire, recruit, and retain outstanding faculty in engineering, computer science, and related technology fields under guidelines established by the State Board of Regents.
- (3)
 - (a) State institutions of higher education shall match the appropriation on a one-to-one basis in order to qualify for state monies appropriated under Subsection (1).
 - (b)
 - (i) Qualifying institutions shall annually report their matching dollars to the board.
 - (ii) The board shall make a summary report of the institutional matches.
 - (iii) The annual report of the Technology Initiative Advisory Board required by Section 53B-6-105.5 shall include the summary report of the institutional matches.
- (4) The board shall make a rule in accordance with Title 63G, Chapter 3, Utah Administrative Rulemaking Act, establishing policies and procedures to apply for and distribute the state appropriation to qualifying institutions.

Amended by Chapter 382, 2008 General Session