Faculty Senate

Motion to Recommend Approval of New List of Peer and Aspiration Institutions

Originator: Budget and Finance Standing Committee

Whereas,

Peer institutions are institutions that are selected to be used for comparative analysis and benchmarking of institutional qualities. Peers usually have common qualities such as level of resources, student headcount, and institutional goals. It is periodically necessary to update a university’s List of Peer and Aspirational Institutions to reflect the change in qualities of the institution over time.

Be it resolved that,

The Faculty Senate recommends approval of the attached List of Peer and Aspirant Institutions proposed by the Office of Institutional Research.

Recipients:
Faculty Senate
Abby Parrill-Baker, Interim Provost
Raaj Kurapati, EVP, CFO, COO
Jasbir Dhaliwal, EVP, Office of Research and Innovation
Helen Johnson, Office of the Provost
Bridgette Decent, Associate Vice Provost for Strategic Analytics, Director of OIR
As a part of the strategic planning process, it was determined there was a need to update the institution's peers and aspirants list. As such, a statistical analysis was conducted that looked at all higher education institutions that met the criteria of National, Public, Large, Carnegie R1/R2, and 4-year institutions (excluding HBCUs). This analysis yielded 132 institutions. From those 132 institutions, a cluster analysis using 52 data points was performed to determine those institutions most similar to the University of Memphis, thus creating a peer list. The cluster analysis also yielded a pool of institutions that scored marginally higher on the 52 data points and this pool was used to determine the aspirants.

**Peer List (7 R1 and 3 R2):**

- Boise State University (R2, Ntl. Rank 299)
- East Carolina University (R2, Ntl. Rank 213)
- Kent State University (R1, IPEDS Peer, Ntl. Rank 212)
- Mississippi State University (R1, Power 5, Ntl. Rank 196)
- University of Nevada-Reno (R1, Ntl. Rank 227)
- University of New Mexico (R1, Ntl. Rank 196)
- University of North Carolina, Greensboro (R2, NSSE Peer, IPEDS Peer, Ntl. Rank 239)
- University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee (R1, Urban 13 Peer, IPEDS Peer, Ntl. Rank 249)
- West Virginia University (R1, Ntl. Rank 234)

**Aspirants (all R1):**

- Colorado State University (R1, Power 5, Ntl. Rank 148)
- Kansas State University (R1, Power 5, Ntl. Rank 162)
- Louisiana State University-Baton Rouge (R1, Power 5, Ntl. Rank 172)
- Oklahoma State University (R1, Power 5, Ntl. Rank 187)
- Oregon State University (R1, Power 5, Ntl. Rank 162)
- University of Alabama (R1, Power 5, Ntl. Rank 148)
- University of Arkansas (R1, Power 5, Ntl. Rank 162)
- University of Mississippi (R1, Power 5, Ntl. Rank 148)
- University of Texas-Dallas (R1, Power 5, Ntl. Rank 136)
- Washington State University (R1, Power 5, Ntl. Rank 179)

**Note:** University of Memphis is R1, an Urban 13 institution, and nationally ranked 249
This is based on a cluster analysis using the following 52 variables

1. Percent of Faculty with Terminal Degree
2. Average alumni giving rate
3. First Year Freshmen Average High School GPA
4. Cost of Room and Board
5. Percent of First Year Freshmen in top 10% of high school class
6. Average indebtedness of Graduating UG Class
7. Percent of applicants accepted
8. Six year graduation rate
9. First Year Freshmen One Year Retention Rate
10. Educational expenditures per student
11. First Year Freshmen Enrollment
12. Number of Full Time Faculty
13. Cost of In State Tuition and Fees
14. Need Based Financial Aid Awarded to First Year Freshmen
15. Cost of Out of State Tuition and Fees
16. Student to faculty ratio
17. UG % Black or Hispanic
18. UG % Female
19. UG % International
20. UG % of students with financial need
21. Percent of classes with 50 or more students
22. Percent of classes with 20 or fewer students
23. Percent of faculty who are full time
24. Four Year graduation rate
25. Academic Support Expenditures
26. Average percent of UG need met
27. Bachelors degrees awarded
28. Campus size in acres
29. Institutional support expenditures
30. Masters degrees awarded
31. Number of freshmen with Need fully met
32. Public services expenditures
33. Research expenditures
34. Student Services Expenditures
35. Total enrollment
36. Percent UG In State
37. Percent UG On Campus
38. Endowment
39. Professional degrees awarded
40. Average federal indebtedness of UG Graduating class
41. Doctoral degrees awarded
42. Number of graduates with federal loans
43. Average faculty salary
44. Percent of UG with Pell grants
45. Percent of faculty who are minorities
46. Percent of First Year Freshmen with Pell grants
47. Six Year graduation rate gap between Pell/nonPell
48. Carnegie Classification
49. Coalition of Urban Serving Institutions flag
50. Research expenditures in Non-science and Engineering
51. Average ACT score of first year freshmen
52. Percent of classes offered online