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A STUDY OF THE DISTRIBUTION OF FINANCIAL AID AWARDED BY FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY TO FLORIDA PUBLIC JUNIOR COLLEGE TRANSFER STUDENTS AND INCOMING FRESHMEN

Robert L. Breuder

In an article written by Gerald P. Burns, Professor of Higher Education at Florida State University, entitled "How our Schools Can Save your Money", Dr. Burns says: "A financial crisis faces our nation's colleges and universities. Both the layman and the professional are acutely aware of this. They recognize the reasons for this shortage — cutbacks in government spending, slowdown in foundation and corporate philanthropy, coupled with continuing increases in educational costs." (It is interesting to note that federal aid to colleges has risen steadily, almost doubling since 1965; however, 1969 saw no increase in funds over the 4.4 billion allocated in 1968. An increase of only .6 billion in 1970, bringing the total to 5 billion, means that higher education can expect federal funds to be distributed more thinly than ever before).

With the cost of attending college continuing to increase — conservative projections of the Carnegie Commission on Higher Education indicating a rise about twice as fast as wages and perhaps three times the rate of inflation — it becomes imperative that financial assistance (in the form of loans, grants, and scholarships) be made available in larger amounts and to more students.



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The current policy of passing along the increased costs to students is becoming increasingly difficult, since a larger number of students are unable to bear the added, rapidly increasing, financial burden.

The majority of college and university leaders in the area of student financial aid agree that all students who qualify for financial assistance and request it, should receive it. However, because of the increased shortage of funds available, educational institutions (both public and private) must design and implement a series of guidelines, or priorities, which will provide the bases upon which student financial aid is allocated.

Among the more commonly debated issues by state college and university financial aid officers is that of trying to answer the following question: To whom should state universities allocate greater financial aid: to public junior college transfer students, incoming freshmen (not necessarily state residents), or both groups on an equal basis?

At The Florida State University this question has been the focus of much attention during the past 12 to 18 months. Before discussing what appears to be the general consensus of opinion relevant to this issue, let's examine the junior college in its proper perspective in Florida.

Currently, Florida has 27 public junior colleges with a total enrollment of 147,823 students. Florida's 27 public junior colleges enroll 5.91 percent of the total number of students enrolled in junior and/or community colleges throughout the country. In September 1971, Florida will open its 28th junior college (located in Hernando-Pasco Counties), thereby placing a public junior college within one hour commuting distance of every citizen in the state.

The growth of junior colleges at the national level is staggering. According to figures provided by A.A.U.P., in 1960 there were 678 junior colleges with an enrollment of 660,216 students. By 1970 there were 1,091 institutions (62.1 percent increase) with a total enrollment of 2,499,837 (378.63 percent increase) students. Today, more than 33 percent of the total student enrollment in higher education is found in community or junior colleges. Since 1960 Florida increased its number of public junior colleges by three and its student enrollment from 20,944 to 147,823, an increase of 704.12 percent. The increase in student enrollment in Florida public junior colleges during the past decade is double that of the national growth rate.

The above information makes it apparent that Florida has been a leading state in the junior college movement. Recognizing the commitment we have made to the junior college movement can be evidenced in still another way.

The seven state universities in Florida have indicated that they are relying more and more on the public junior colleges to supply lower division undergraduate degree requirements. In addition, two new state universities (University of North Florida and Florida International University) due to open their doors in the Fall of 1971, will offer upper division undergraduate course work only — relying on the state's public and private junior colleges to provide the student with his first two years of college work.

If Florida is committed to the philosophy of the junior college, then what obligations do financial aid officers at the state universities have toward transfer students?

In the Spring of 1969, Florida State University recognized that rapport between the state's public junior colleges and the University had reached an all time low. Only 1,371 Florida public junior college transfer students entered Florida State University during the fall of 1970 instead of the expected 2,000 plus. Apparently other units of the state university system were experiencing similar articulation difficulties, since figures show that the total number of transfers from Florida public junior colleges rose from 6,694 in 1969 to only 6,744 in 1970, a gain of merely 50 students or .74 percent.

In an attempt to alleviate this undesirable situation, Florida State University established a Division of Junior College Affairs in the spring of 1969 and subsequently appointed Dr. Marshall Hamilton, then President of North Florida Junior College, as Director.

Within six short months many of the existing difficulties that had plagued the University for so long had been remedied, while others were uncovered. In the fall of 1970, Dr. Hamilton expressed concern over the allocation of student financial aid to Florida public junior college transfer students as compared to incoming freshmen. This concern resulted in a meeting between administrative officials, whose decision it was to initiate a study to ascertain if a larger amount of student financial aid was being allocated to incoming freshmen than to Florida public junior college transfer students.

RESULTS OF STUDY

For the fall quarter, 1970, the Financial Aid Office at Florida State University awarded a total of \$633,534.00 to incoming freshmen students and Florida public junior college transfer students.

Of the total amount awarded, 292 incoming freshmen received a total of \$311,469.00 or 49.16 percent of the total awarded funds. Two hundred ninety Florida public junior college transfer students were awarded a total of \$322,065.00 or 50.84 percent of the total awarded funds.

Table 1 depicts the total number of students from each Florida public junior college that received financial assistance and the total amount of assistance awarded. It is interesting to note that Miami-Dade and St. Petersburg Junior College received 35.8 percent of the total allocated funds.

Table 2 depicts the percentage of transfer students from each of the Florida public junior colleges receiving financial assistance for fall, 1970. At Brevard Junior College, for example, 50 students transferred to Florida State University in the fall 1970, of which 17, or 34 percent, received some kind of financial assistance. During the fall quarter, 1970, 1,371 Florida junior college transfer students entered Florida State University, of which 290, or 21.2 percent, received financial assistance.

Table 3 depicts the average financial aid awarded to Florida public junior college transfer students by Florida State University in the fall 1970. Disregarding Hillsborough Junior College which opened in the fall 1970, Palm Beach Junior College transfer students received on the average of \$748.89 in financial assistance from Florida State University. At the opposite end of the continuum, Polk Junior College transfer students received on the average of \$1,824.77 in financial assistance. A difference of \$1,075.88 separated the

two ends of the financial aid continuum. For the fall quarter 1970, the average financial assistance awarded Florida public junior college transfer students was \$1,110.00. This figure appears to be quite reasonable, particularly when compared with the sum of \$1,110.00 that the United States Office of Education estimates it costs to send a student to a public college for one year.

Table 4 shows the average family income of 18,653 students attending Florida public junior colleges in the fall 1969. This table indicates that the 531 students at Edison Junior College had an average family income of \$7,662.90, while 927 students at Brevard Junior College had an average family income of \$11,098.71. This represents an average family income difference of \$3,435.81 between the public junior colleges. The average family income for 18,653 students enrolled in Florida public junior colleges was \$10,075.70.

TABLE 1
FINANCIAL AID AWARDED TO FLORIDA PUBLIC JUNIOR COLLEGE
TRANSFER STUDENTS BY FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY
IN THE FALL 1970

Junior College	Number of Students Receiving Financial Aid		Total Amount of Financial Aid Awarded	
	Number	Percentage	Amount	Percentage of Total
Brevard	17	5.9	\$ 19,025	5.9
Broward	7	2.4	6,285	2.0
Central Florida	5	1.7	5,325	1.7
Chipola	8	2.8	12,375	3.8
Daytona Beach	8	2.8	7,625	2.4
Edison	7	2.4	7,000	2.2
Florida	14	4.8	18,125	5.6
Florida Keys	1	.3	1,425	.4
Gulf Coast	5	1.7	4,800	1.5
Hillsborough	0	0.0	0	0.0
Indian River	4	1.4	4,200	1.3
Lake City	4	1.4	3,600	1.1
Lake Sumter	5	1.7	5,400	1.7
Manatee	13	4.5	10,775	3.4
Miami Dade	83	28.6	84,842	26.3
North Florida	12	4.1	16,800	5.2
Okaloosa - Walton	5	1.7	5,875	1.8
Palm Beach	9	3.1	6,740	2.1
Pensacola	10	3.5	10,325	3.2
Polk	9	3.1	16,423	5.1
St. John River	5	1.7	4,950	1.5
St. Petersburg	26	9.0	30,525	9.5
Santa Fe	5	1.7	7,375	2.3
Seminole	7	2.4	8,400	2.6
South Florida	2	.7	2,400	.8
Tallahassee	15	5.2	15,975	5.0
Valencia	4	1.4	5,475	1.7
TOTALS	290	100.0%	\$322,065.	100.0%

While there exist many criteria upon which to assess financial need, ideally we would hope that the amount of financial assistance allocated to students be contingent upon personal need as reflected in their family income. If we assume that the average family income of students attending Florida's public junior colleges in the fall 1969 is similar to the average family income

TABLE 2
 PERCENTAGE OF FLORIDA PUBLIC JUNIOR COLLEGE TRANSFER
 STUDENTS RECEIVING FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FROM FLORIDA
 STATE UNIVERSITY IN THE FALL 1970

Junior College	Total Number of Transfer Students Entering The Florida	Total Number of Transfer Students Receiving Financial Assistance	
	State University	Number	Percentage
Brevard	50	17	34.0
Broward	67	7	10.5
Central Florida	18	5	27.8
Chipola	63	8	12.7
Daytona Beach	35	8	22.9
Edison	43	7	16.3
Florida	84	14	16.7
Florida Keys	7	1	14.3
Gulf Coast	46	5	10.9
Hillsborough	7	0	0.0
Indiana River	16	4	25.0
Lake City	12	4	33.3
Lake Sumter	12	5	41.7
Manatee	56	13	23.2
Miami Dade	268	83	31.0
North Florida	69	12	17.4
Okaloosa - Walton	33	5	15.2
Palm Beach	83	9	10.8
Pensacola	61	10	16.4
Polk	41	9	22.0
St. Johns River	28	5	17.9
St. Petersburg	114	26	22.8
Santa Fe	14	5	35.7
Seminole	20	7	35.0
South Florida	5	2	40.0
Tallahassee	104	15	14.4
Valencia	15	4	26.7
TOTALS	1,371	290	21.2%

of those students who transferred to Florida State University in the fall 1970, some pertinent observations can be made.

Table 5 depicts the rank position of average family income (from lowest 1, to highest 15), average financial aid (from lowest 1, to highest 15), and a suggested equitable average financial aid for fifteen Florida public junior colleges. Those junior colleges having less than seven (7) students transferring to Florida State University in the fall 1970 were not included in the analysis. Table 5 clearly indicates that a very low correlation, $r_s = -.29$, exists between the average amount of financial aid received by students attending any one of the fifteen listed junior colleges and their average family income. Were Florida State University awarding financial assistance on the basis of family income, an $r_s = -1.00$ would result — as depicted by the equitable average financial aid line in Table 5.

Chipola Junior College, for example, had the second lowest average family income and the second highest average financial aid — a perfect correlation. Edison Junior College, on the other hand, had the lowest average family income but ranked fifth lowest in average financial aid awarded. Ideally, Edison should have ranked highest in average financial aid awarded.

In general, Chipola, Florida, Pensacola, Palm Beach and Brevard Junior Colleges showed the best correlation between average family income and average financial aid awarded.

TABLE 3
 AVERAGE FINANCIAL AID AWARDED TO FLORIDA PUBLIC
 JUNIOR COLLEGE TRANSFER STUDENTS BY FLORIDA
 STATE UNIVERSITY IN THE FALL 1970
 (Ranked from Lowest to Highest)

Junior College	Number of Students Receiving Financial Aid	Average Financial Aid Awarded
Hillsborough	0	\$ —
Palm Beach	9	748.89
Manatee	13	828.85
Broward	7	891.86
Lake City	4	900.00
Daytona Beach	8	953.16
Gulf Coast	5	960.00
St. Johns River	5	990.00
Edison	7	1,000.00
Miami Dade	83	1,022.19
Pensacola	10	1,032.50
Indian River	4	1,050.00
Tallahassee	15	1,065.00
Central Florida	5	1,065.00
Valencia	4	1,086.35
Okaloosa - Walton	5	1,075.00
Lake Sumter	5	1,080.00
St. Petersburg	26	1,174.04
Brevard	17	1,119.00
South Florida	2	1,200.00
Seminole	7	1,200.00
Florida	14	1,294.64
North Florida	12	1,400.00
Florida Keys	1	1,425.00
Sante Fe	5	1,475.00
Chipola	8	1,546.88
Polk	9	1,824.77
TOTALS	290	\$1,110.00

Results such as those found in Table 5 should encourage financial aid officers to reassess the method(s) they employ in determining the amount of financial aid to be awarded needy students.

In returning to our comparison of the financial aid awarded Florida Public junior college transfer students and incoming freshmen, we should note that 292 or 11.3 percent of the 2,589 incoming freshmen received financial assistance as compared to 290 or 21.2 percent of the 1,371 Florida public junior college transfer students. As reported earlier the average financial assistance awarded Florida public junior college transfer students was \$1,110.00 while financial assistance awarded incoming freshmen was \$1,066.00. Florida public junior college transfer students received, on the average, \$44.00 more in financial assistance than incoming freshmen students.

TABLE 4
 AVERAGE FAMILY INCOME OF STUDENTS ATTENDING FLORIDA
 PUBLIC JUNIOR COLLEGES IN THE FALL 1969
 (Ranked from the Lowest to Highest)

Junior College	Number of Students	Average Family Income
Edison	531	\$ 7,662.90
Chipola	441	8,547.60
Lake City	311	8,837.50
St. Petersburg	2,598	8,926.40
Daytona Beach	585	9,269.20
Central Florida	481	9,471.00
Indian River	347	9,488.40
South Florida	140	9,500.00
Hillsborough	98	9,510.20
Florida	1,214	9,630.10
Miami Dade	662	9,838.50
Okaloosa - Walton	362	9,868.70
Lake Sumter	308	9,933.40
North Florida	372	9,963.70
Valencia	809	10,113.00
Polk	717	10,228.00
St. Johns River	454	10,258.80
Florida Keys	104	10,274.00
Santa Fe	597	10,324.90
Seminole	361	10,426.50
Manatee	814	10,472.30
Pensacola	1,395	10,523.20
Gulf Coast	488	10,538.90
Tallahassee	674	10,718.00
Palm Beach	1,479	10,723.07
Broward	1,429	11,042.30
Brevard	927	11,098.71
TOTALS	18,653	\$10,075.70

CONCLUSION

On the basis of the research findings presented in this report, two conclusions may be drawn:

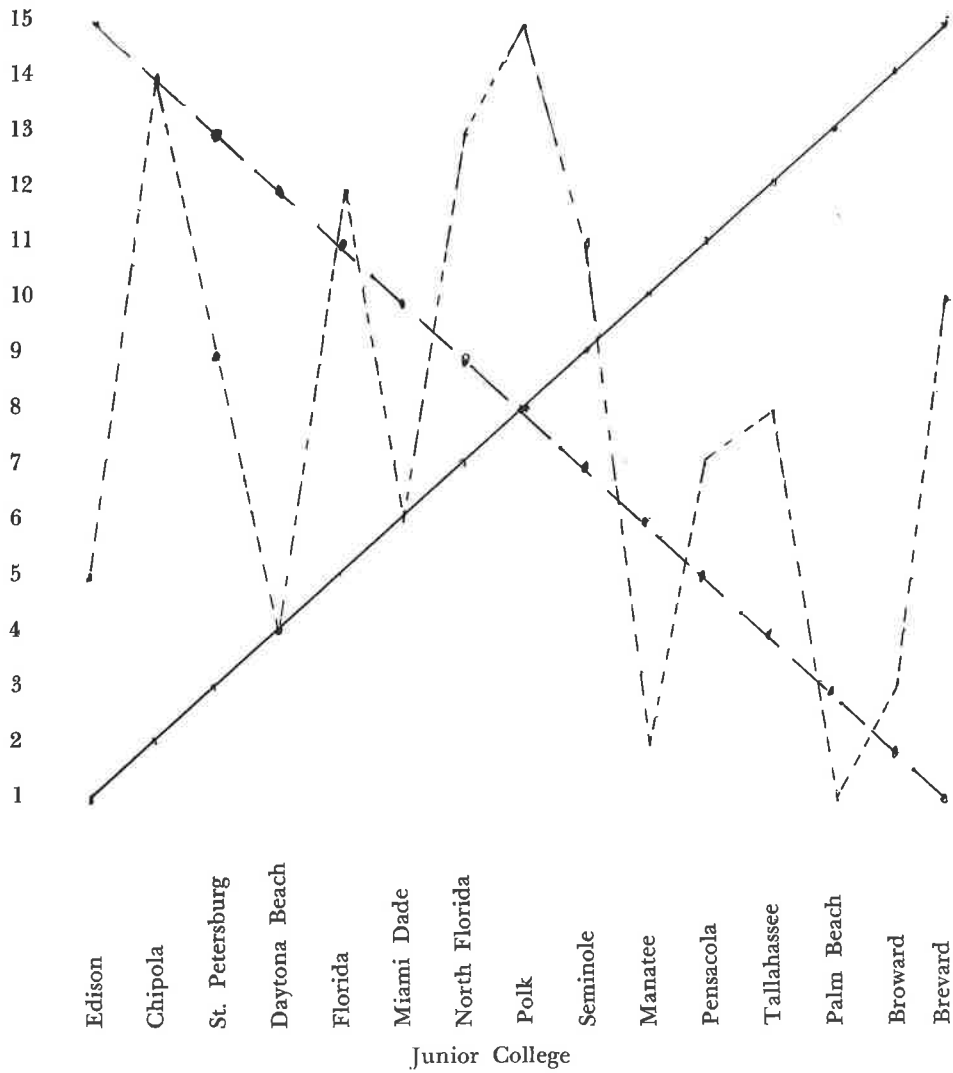
1. In the allocation of financial aid by Florida State University in the fall, 1970, Florida public junior college transfer students were not discriminated against when compared to incoming freshmen students.
2. There exists a very low correlation between a student's family income and the amount of financial assistance he receives from Florida State University.

Despite the fact that Florida State University awards an equal amount of financial aid to Florida public junior college transfer students and incoming freshmen, there are many at Florida State University who would argue that our public junior college transfer students should be receiving an even greater share of the available funds. Some have gone as far as to suggest that a separate fund be set up exclusively for transfer students who qualify for funds on the basis of need.

I believe that the state of Florida has made a commitment to its junior colleges and the people who attend them. The limits placed by the Board of Regents on Florida State's Freshmen enrollment would seem to indicate that we should rely more heavily upon recruiting junior college graduates to attain our projected annual enrollment figures.

TABLE 5

Rank Position of Average Family Income, Average Financial Aid, and a suggested Equitable Average Financial Aid for Fifteen Florida Public Junior Colleges.



KEY
 ————— Average Family Income Ranked from Lowest (1) to Highest (15)
 - - - - - Average Financial Aid Ranked from Lowest (1) to Highest (15)
 - · - · - Equitable Average Financial Aid

It is most unfortunate that the junior college transfer student has been, and may still be, "the forgotten student" in American higher education. We must redirect our emphasis to the transfer student so that he may continue to remain in the mainstream of higher education. In discussing the need for increased aid to transfer students, Byron Morris, Director of Admissions at Wooster College, is reported as saying that the increase in the enrollment of junior college students has not been accompanied by increased allocations in financial aid. Morris recommends that four-year institutions reevaluate their programs in order to give increased aid to this group which under the circumstances has greater need than students entering as freshmen.

It is not my desire to convey the impression that the increased emphasis placed on transfer students should result in our failure to provide financial assistance to good quality and deserving freshmen; however, as pointed out earlier, the recent shortage in funds available for financial assistance compels financial aid officers to operate under some set of priorities. Because of Florida's commitment to her junior colleges, I believe public junior college transfer students should rank number one in our list of financial aid priorities.