

## Feedback on Affordability & Social Mobility

### COMMENTS ON STARS 0.4

#### AFFORDABILITY AND SOCIAL MOBILITY

*Reviewer 14*

This area may “stretch” the definition of sustainability beyond the point where trustees may be prepared to accept it.

*Reviewer 38*

AASHE might consider awarding more points for institutions offering funding or scholarships to students from “low income” families wishing to pursue an education focused on the issues of sustainability.

#### SC Credit 1: Social Mobility – Trend

*Reviewer 30*

I feel strongly that this indicator is unrealistic. it requires a very high level of student disclosure and institutional data collection that will be extremely difficult to accomplish.

*Reviewer 27*

SC Credit 26 second sentence can confuse using the word alternatively is it one or the other or both?

*Reviewer 35*

SC 26: community colleges that operate in economically disadvantaged areas will be hard put to get a point from an upward trend, and they do deserve one for their present performance levels.

*Reviewer 40*

Does not seem relevant.

#### SC Credit 2: Affordability – Trend

*Reviewer 17*

How can the ratio of financial aid in relation to tuition grow if all these social issues are to be addressed? Each one costs money and if the money doesn't come from tuition, where will it come from?

*Reviewer 30*

I feel strongly that this indicator is unrealistic. it requires a 0 net growth in net revenue if there is more growth in financial aid than in tuition. the metric for this indicator needs to be revised or not included, which is what I would advise. how about saying that the rise in tuition in 3 years must not exceed the rise in inflation as measured by the consumer price index? then you could make another indicator for points if the financial aid increase has exceeded the consumer price index.

*Reviewer 35*

SC 27: institutions that already meet the full need of students by federal guidelines should get a point here.

*Reviewer 40*

This implies that increasing loans is equivalent to increasing grants/scholarships! Schools should get points for reducing costs, not deferring it as student debt.

Wouldn't need-blind admissions would be a more meaningful indicator?

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### SURVEY RESPONSES

#### AFFORDABILITY AND SOCIAL MOBILITY

1. [How should an institution's contribution to social mobility be measured and recognized in STARS? Is percentage of students who receive Pell Grants a good indicator of how the institution contributes to social mobility? Please be as specific as possible.](#)

*Respondent C*

I believe it is arguable that social mobility is a sustainability issue. Affordability and access, on the other hand, are definitely required for sustainability. I believe that a definition similar to diversity should be applied here—percentage of low income students in the student body compared to the low-income percentage in an institution's market (or Pell Grant recipients).

If an institution meets full need of all students according to the Uniform Methodology, Credit 27 should be given for a 1:1 ratio.

2. Should we create a credit for debt forgiveness for students who go into public service and/or other incentives to promote or support public service by graduates? How should the credit be written?

*Respondent B*

Possibly.

*Respondent K*

Politics again, this again is off the track and diverts dollars and time from the central object.

*Respondent F*

Yes! Great idea! However, it would have to be written in such a way that students would not set themselves up to have their debt forgiven. It would have to take into account the length of time they spend in public service. A review committee could review the work they do to assess it's benefit to society in general

*Respondent I*

Not sure- part of it depends on the infrastructure and how close your school is connected to Peace Corps, Ameri Corps and Teach for America among other programs