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October 20, 2015

The Honorable Arne Duncan
Secretary
U.S. Department of Education
400 Maryland Avenue, SW
Washington, D.C. 20202

Dear Secretary Duncan:

The Department of Education (department) has indicated¹ the formation of an interagency task force (task force) for oversight of proprietary institutions of higher education. Additionally, the department has indicated this task force met in May and would seek public input from stakeholders.² However, no further information is available regarding the participants or the activities of the task force, even as recent federal sanctions and inquiries are attributed to the workings of the task force.³

Pursuant to the Committee's oversight responsibilities under the rules of the House of Representatives, we request you provide information on the makeup, activities, and plans of the task force. Respectfully, we request that you respond to the following questions by November 3, 2015:

1. Which agencies and offices are participating in the task force, whether as formal members of the task force or informal participants? Who are the lead members and staff from each participating agency or office? Please also list any other participants, and their affiliation, who have participated or may participate in the work of the task force.
2. How were the participating agencies and staff determined?
3. How many in-person or teleconference meetings have been held since the creation of the task force? How many in-person or teleconference meetings were held by the working

¹ <http://www.ed.gov/news/press-releases/obama-administration-announces-final-rules-protect-students-poor-performing-career-college-programs>

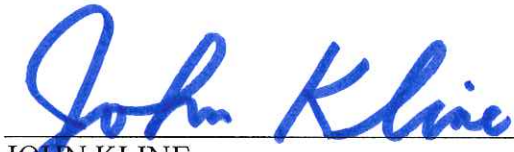
² <http://www.ed.gov/news/press-releases/fact-sheet-protecting-students-abusive-career-colleges>

³ <https://www.insidehighered.com/news/2015/10/12/federal-agencies-join-forces-regulate-profit-colleges>


4. group that preceded the task force? Please provide the meeting agendas of such meetings. Have any such meetings been publicly noticed or open to the public? Have any smaller group of participants in the task force met to discuss any issues relating to the scope or activities covered by the task force?
5. Is the work of the task force governed by the requirements set forth in the *Sunshine Act* or the *Federal Advisory Committee Act*? If not, please describe why the task force is exempted from these requirements.
6. Are meeting records available for public review? If so, how would the public obtain these records? If not, would meeting records be available to the public through a request filed under the *Freedom of Information Act*?
7. To date, what issues has the task force discussed or addressed? Has the task force discussed or made any recommendations on actions the participating agencies should take regarding the underlying issues the task force was created to review?
8. Have any members of the public had an opportunity to weigh in with the task force or its participants on the issues that should be examined? What process has the task force used for vetting those requests? Please provide a list of those requests and who has made them.
9. Do task force participants share documents obtained through formal or informal information requests or other investigate procedures examining proprietary institutions? If so, what process is used to protect privileged, confidential, or proprietary information?
10. Are there any other informal or formal groups or interagency task forces in place addressing oversight functions pertaining to other specific categories of postsecondary institutions?

If you have any questions regarding this request, please contact James Forester (james.forester@mail.house.gov) or Emmanuel Guillory (Emmanuel.Guillory@mail.house.gov) with the House Committee on Education and the Workforce at (202) 225-6558.

Sincerely,



JOHN KLINE
Chairman
Committee on Education and the Workforce



VIRGINIA FOXX
Chairwoman
Subcommittee on Higher Education
and Workforce Training