

The Conditioning Role of State Higher Education Governance Structures

This study examines the conditioning effect state consolidated governing boards for higher education have on the impact various political actors and factors have on state effort for higher education. The existence of a consolidated governing board is shown to significantly alter the effect of governors, legislatures, and interest groups, among other factors.

Figure 1: Budget Powers of the Governor

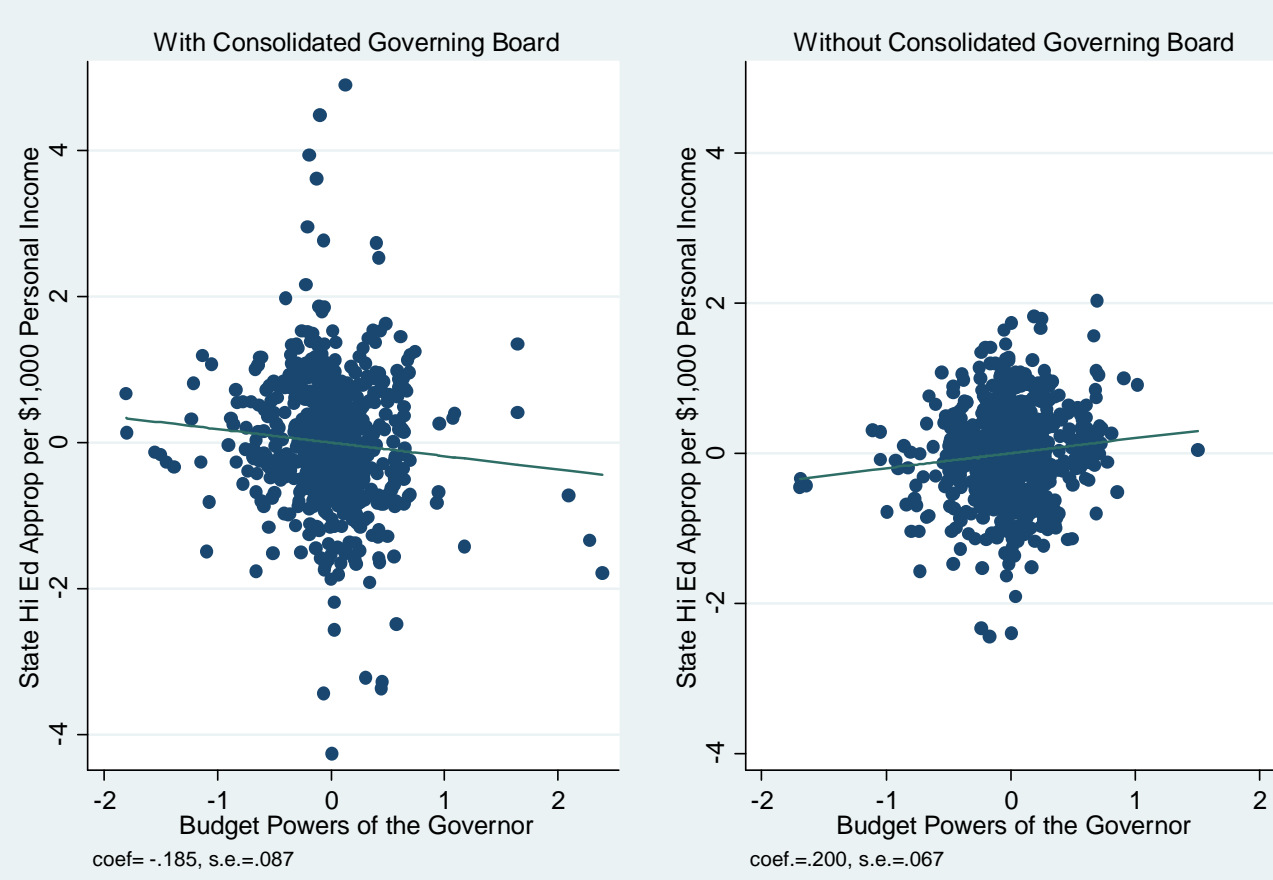


Figure 2: Legislative Professionalism



Figure 3: Party of the Legislature (% Dem)

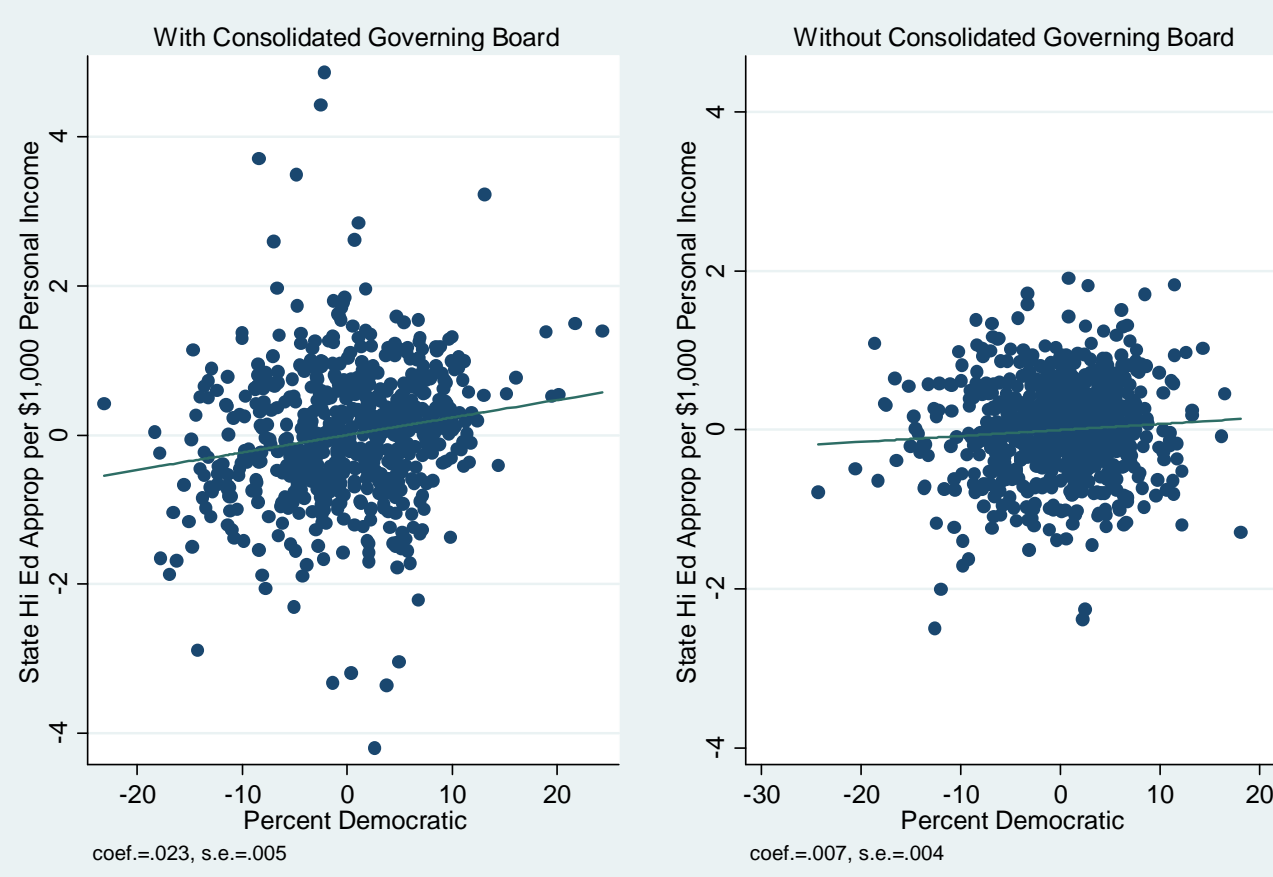


Figure 4: Higher Education Interest Group Ratio

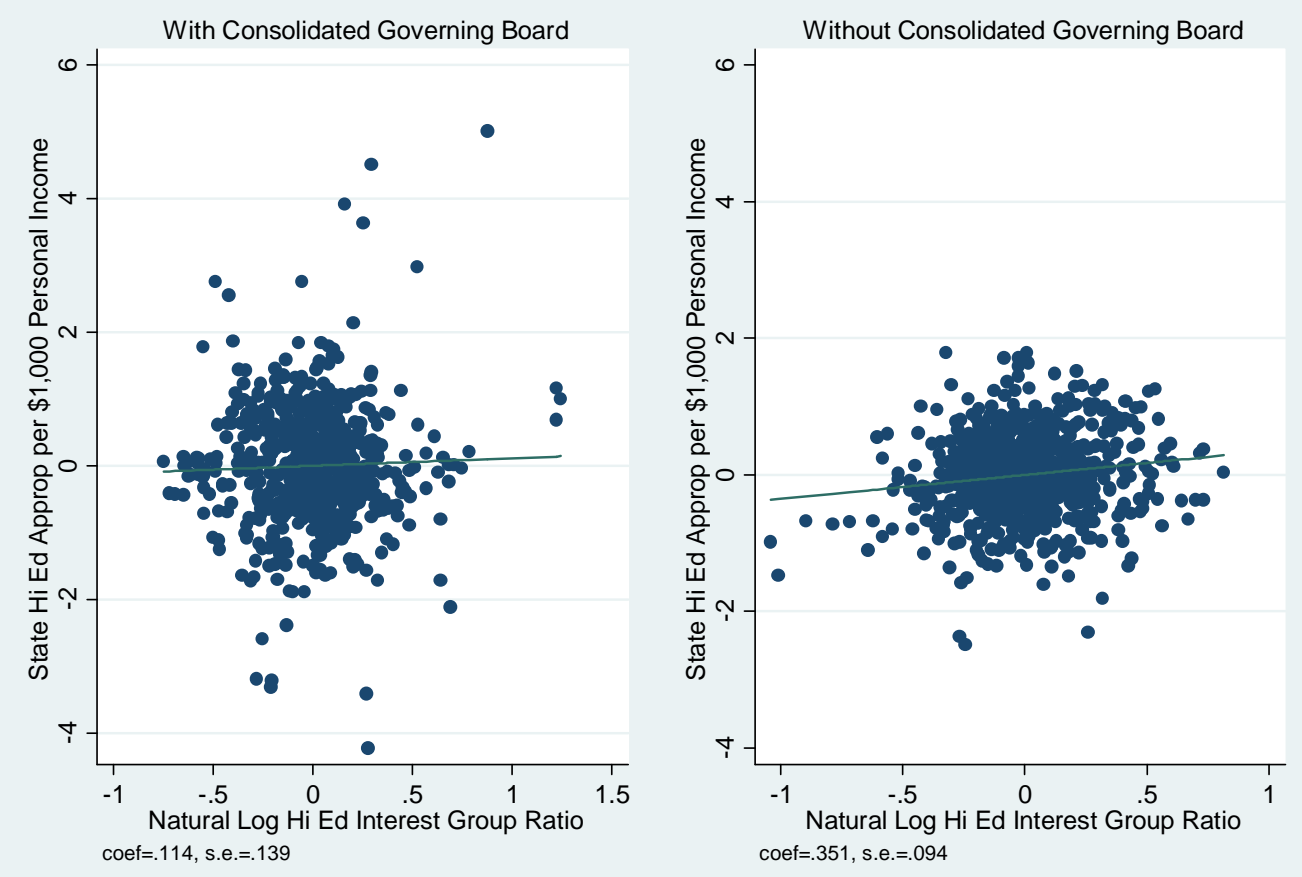


Figure 5: Political Ideology



Figure 6: Voter Turnout

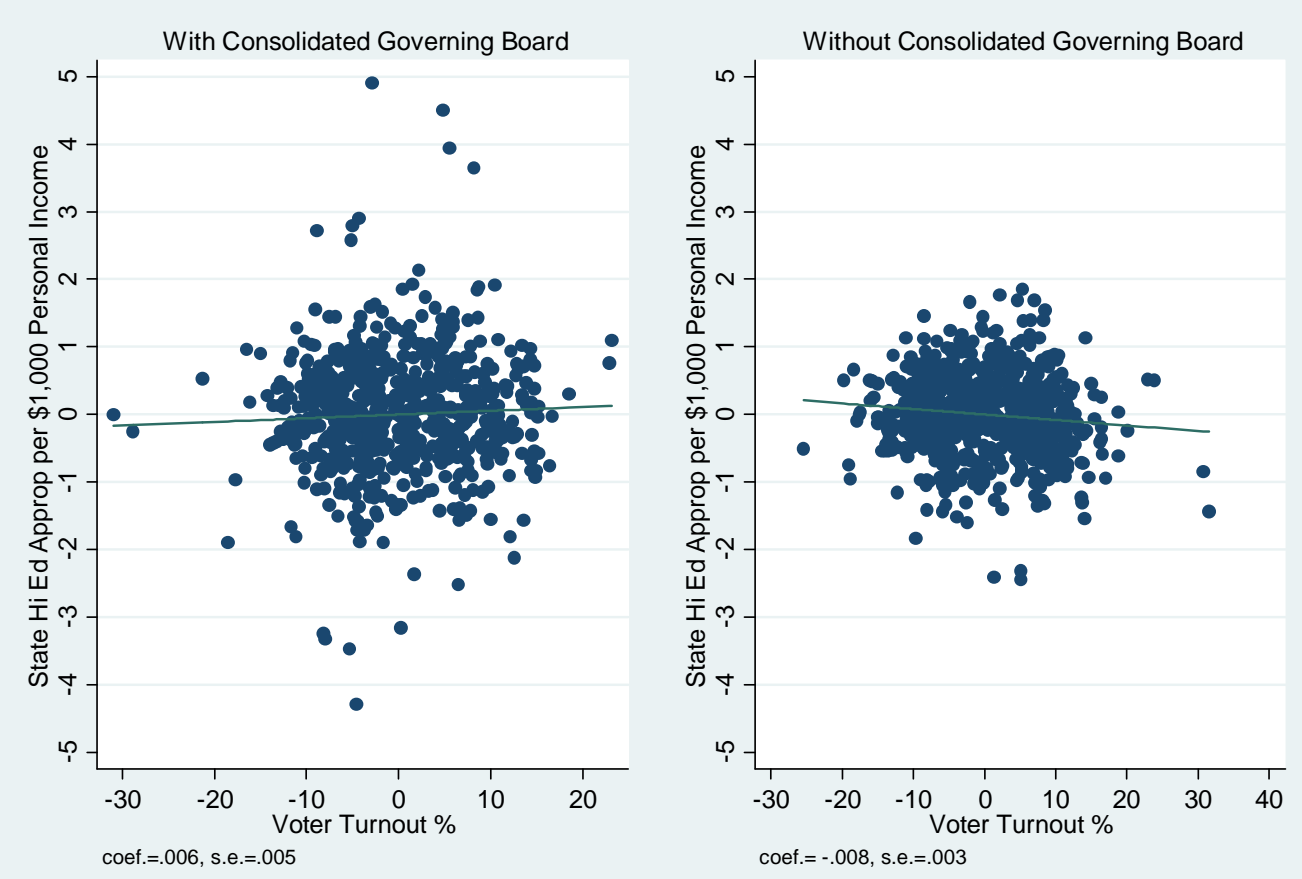


Table 2: State Appropriations to Higher Education per \$1,000 Personal Income (State Effort)

Dependent Variable: State funding of higher education per \$1,000 of personal income	Model 1: No Interaction	Model 2: Including Interaction Terms	Models 3 & 4: Split Samples		
		Main Effects	Interaction Terms (a*b)	Model 3: With a Consolidated Governing Board	Model 4: No Consolidated Governing Board
Political Culture	-0.05 (0.31)	-0.124 (0.696)	0.038 (0.754)	-0.207 (0.4)	-0.148 (0.571)
Electoral competition	0.008** (0.002)	0.009* (0.003)	-0.002 (0.004)	0.001 (0.004)	0.012** (0.002)
Budget Power of Gov	-0.019 (0.057)	0.284* (0.082)	-0.437* (0.107)	-0.185* (0.087)	0.200* (0.067)
Hi Ed Interest Group Ratio	0.281* (0.083)	0.351* (0.113)	-0.103 (0.151)	0.114 (0.139)	0.351** (0.094)
Political Ideology	0.016** (0.004)	-0.001 (0.005)	0.023** (0.006)	0.018* (0.006)	0.003 (0.004)
Leg Professionalism * \$1,000	0.155** (0.028)	0.065+ (0.031)	0.31** (0.054)	0.36** (0.062)	0.006* (0.002)
Party of the Governor (1=Dem)	0.137* (0.051)	0.151* (0.067)	-0.034 (0.102)	0.038 (0.09)	0.157* (0.052)
Party of Legislature (% Dem)	0.017** (0.003)	0.001 (0.004)	0.025** (0.006)	0.023** (0.005)	0.008+ (0.004)
Leg Term Limits (1=yes)	-0.097 (0.109)	0.081 (0.142)	-0.35+ (0.203)	-0.148 (0.18)	-0.063 (0.112)
Voter Turnout	-0.001 (0.003)	-0.006 (0.004)	0.010+ (0.005)	0.005 (0.005)	-0.008* (0.003)
Uni-party Legislature (1=yes)	-0.154* (0.053)	-0.109 (0.069)	-0.050 (0.102)	-0.125 (0.091)	-0.116* (0.054)
Consolidated Gov. Board (1=yes)	-0.525* (0.178)	-3.425* (1.047)			
Constant	-1.213 (2.909)	1.397 (2.934)		-3.144 (4.536)	12.164* (3.658)
R-squared	0.902	0.908		0.907	0.919
n	1,400	1,400		646	754

+ significant at 10%; * significant at 5%; ** significant at 1%

- **Definitions:** All states have some sort of governance structure for higher education. However, the specific structure employed and the power granted to the structure differs from state-to-state.

Consolidated governing possess direct control over the academic and fiscal affairs of all the public campuses within their state.

- **Methods:** This study utilized panel data from all 50 states from 1976 to 2004 and employed fixed effects for both years and states.

- **Future Research:** will explore precisely why these effects are evident and how these structures may condition the effect these actors and factors have on other state higher education policy areas (financial aid, performance funding, etc.).

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