

MINUTES
SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

DATE: Thursday, March 15, 2012

TIME: 3:00 P.M.

PLACE: Room WW55

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chairman Goedde, Vice Chairman Mortimer, Senators Pearce, Fulcher, Winder, Toryanski, Malepeai, and LeFavour

ABSENT/ EXCUSED: Senator Andreason

NOTE: The sign-in sheet, testimonies, and other related materials will be retained with the minutes in the committee's office until the end of the session and will then be located on file with the minutes in the Legislative Services Library.

CONVENED: **Chairman Goedde** called the committee to order at 3:12 P.M. and asked the secretary to take a silent roll.

GUBERNATORIAL APPOINTMENT: **Chairman Goedde** welcomed **Milford Terrell**, to the committee to make his presentation and answer questions regarding his past work on the State Board of Education.

Mr. Terrell introduced his brother, **Terry Duffer** to the committee. Being raised as orphans in **The Children's Home** Boise, they were separated in their youth. They were able to reconnect and are now enjoying a lot of "first" things together. **Mr. Terrell** and his brother received a nice round of applause.

TESTIMONY: **Mr. Terrell** began his testimony stating that at the State Board of Education (SBE) meetings someone often goes home sad because sometimes the decisions that are made are not what was requested. From the SBE standpoint the members all try to do their best under the circumstances. The economic downturn has also been tough for the SBE.

Mr. Terrell addressed the controversy regarding the changes made to the universities' mission statements. He told the committee the process for the changes began in September 2011 in response to a change in accreditation requirements. The updates were made at the September meeting to meet the accreditation deadline. At that board meeting it was clearly indicated it would be discussing the mission statements in more detail during a work session at the February 2012 meeting. In February, all the institutions' minutes statements were discussed. The SBE member voted unanimously to approve all the mission statements changes proposed. He told the members of the committee that they have a handout of all universities' statements for their review in their files.

Mr. Terrell took the committee through each institution's changes from the 1998 to the present time. He addressed the removal of "flagship" from the University of Idaho's mission statement. **Mr. Terrell** said of the 73 land grant institutions of the United States, only six include the word "flagship" in their mission statement. The majority of those six are lead institutions for a statewide university system. He then gave examples of the universities that have that term in their mission statement. He knew this was very controversial so he addressed the issue.

QUESTIONS:

Chairman Goedde thanked **Mr. Terrell** for his past service to the SBE . **Chairman Goedde** said he received a draft of the minutes from the SBE for February 15 & 16, and February 20, 2012. On page three is where the discussion began regarding the mission statements. It appeared to him, from these minutes, that **Mr. Terrell** initiated the discussion for the state's flagship institution and discouraged the words in the mission statement. The minutes quoted him saying "using that term provided a feeling of prejudice and belittling other institutions." **Chairman Goedde** asked for more background as to why **Mr. Terrell** feels that way. **Mr. Terrell** said he had done a lot of research on his own before this ever came up. He thought the board was going to discuss this issue at the September meeting, so he decided to do some research between September and February on the terminology.

Chairman Goedde asked **Mr. Terrell** if he was aware of the Carnegie Classifications and asked him to describe to the committee the difference between Carnegie Classification at the University of Idaho and that of Boise State University. **Mr. Terrell** said Carnegie refers to different institutions in different ways. Flagship is a Carnegie word. BSU is metropolitan and that is not a Carnegie word.

Chairman Goedde explained his next question saying there have been some accusations among U of I alumni that **Mr. Terrell** is prejudiced toward BSU. There have been discussions with the Governor what the role of SBE members are and he has urged no parochialism among the members of the SBE. Carnegie classification recognizes each university in a different manner; U of I is high research activity institution, BSU is master's colleges and universities graduate programs (there is no research activity highlighted). **Mr. Terrell** said he did understand the two of them. U of I is a land grant university and you can never take that away from them. The range of deferential between the two is one is a lot older than the other. He said he spoke with the Governor regarding the institutions and the five star program; that is about all the institutions working collaboratively together as research centers. That puts them all in the same classification, but U of I will always be the land grant school. He emphasized that all the institutions should work together.

Chairman Goedde asked **Mr. Terrell** about BSU and U of I football programs and the cross state rivalry. **Mr. Terrell** said he thinks rivalries are great; the stronger the better the game. The SBE is not going to tell institutions where they can and can't play. He down played the importance of athletics to education and said they are just the ability to get free advertising to the institutions. **Chairman Goedde** said the SBE has some responsibility for some oversight of the actions of the presidents of the various institutions. Could he comment on "nasty and inebriated" please. **Mr. Terrell** said unfortunately that was a very poor choice of words; very poor pick of words. He believed the President of BSU admitted to that poor verbiage. But it is a personnel issue and an issue that he could not dwell on because of the status of their employees.

Vice Chairman Mortimer said that he compliments the work of the universities and in the years he has served he has seen them work closer together on research and funding. He asked him what are some of the important issues that he thinks that are coming before SBE in the next year or two. Could he also comment on a direction he sees for the universities. There are some challenges that SBE have talked about and been wanting to work on with the universities. What are those challenges and the directions he would like to see them move towards? **Mr. Terrell** said the issues are to model higher education of other states' universities. He spoke to the different ways other states address tuition costs, remediation, and streamlining the degree this will keep students from going into debt and aid them in getting through school in a timely manner.

Vice Chairman Mortimer asked what his thoughts were regarding the institutions asking for tuition increases. **Mr. Terrell** said that is tough. We should be working to help the children get ahead and he hates to see any child denied schooling because of costs. Unfortunately it takes money to run the schools. The schools are not getting all the money they need and the state isn't getting all the money it needs to fund the schools. It is not the price of education that is the big issue, the biggest cost that students incur is living expenses, loss of income, and not being able to work full-time. During this economic hardship this state has lost \$80M towards higher education.

Senator Fulcher said one of the industries that has promise for growth is the medical industry. There have been discussions regarding medical training in the state of Idaho. Where should Idaho go in regards to medical training. **Mr. Terrell** said he chaired that committee for four years so is very acquainted with what is happening with medical training in Idaho. First issue is there is no money to start that program. If we can't give the higher institutions \$80M they need right now, how is the state going to find 1/2 billion dollars to build a program. There is already a good medical partnership program with WWAMI. There would be the opportunity to put 20 more kids into the WWAMI program if there were funds to do that option. The alternative is with one of the best universities in the nation; University of Washington. University of Utah would consider opening up more spots but the cost is too high. It is better to get the medical students to do an internship in Idaho where they have a tendency to stay and live there.

Senator Toryanski said he reviewed the gubernatorial appointment conformation information form. It states that he has had nine years experience on the SBE. He asked two very basic questions. Why do you want to volunteer for this job for four more years and in the past nine years what unique talents and special values has he brought to the board. **Mr. Terrell** answered those saying his wife has questioned him several times as to why. I have an obligation for the kids for the state of Idaho. I don't want the kids to go through the experiences he had as a kid in Hawthorne Elementary School in Boise. This was a poor area of town and the building was assembled from Old World War II barracks on a piece of dirt. He said he offers the board common sense. He doesn't care for the political issues, he cares for the kids. He wants to make a difference in their lives.

Senator Winder said he had a comment than a question. He knows **Mr. Terrell** from a different perspective of life. He knows him from the years he served on the Children's Home Board of Directors and sharing his story of growing up there when it was an orphanage. Through the education and through hard work he has become a very successful contributor to the community. He is generous to the children of this state and when he says he is doing this for the kids, he is doing it for the kids.

Chairman Goedde said last session we heard from the SBE that they were looking for some kind of outcome based payment for the universities. Does he know where that stands? **Mr. Terrell** said they are working on it and they are putting it together. There are still a lot of questions on the process. **Chairman Goedde** asked if he heard him say the SBE has no role in what sports league a university associates itself with. **Mr. Terrell** indicated it was set by the board that we hire university presidents who hire people to make those decisions. It is not in the best interest of the SBE to be telling institutions where and who they play. They do need to come to the board to get clearance to move from one conference to another. **Chairman Goedde** then asked would you support the University of Idaho moving to the Mountain West Conference? **Mr. Terrell** said absolutely.

Chairman Goedde told **Mr. Terrell** typically the committee does not vote on a confirmation the same day they hear the testimony. The committee will vote on his confirmation on Monday, March 19th.

Vice Chairman Mortimer asked him if he thought the universities are as efficient as they could be. How can they be better. **Mr. Terrell** said he thinks they are doing the best they can with what money they have been given. Currently, in order to operate at the best levels, the institutions must work for grants, trusts, donations, and other types of funding sources because the state simply doesn't have the resources. They are going to still have to find outside funding.

PRESENTATION: **Troy Wheeler**, Chief Financial Officer and **Matt McCarter** from the State Board of Education (SBE) introduced **Superintendent Allan Dunn** from Sugar-Salem and **Retired Superintendent David Rawls** from Coeur d'Alene to help present SchoolNet from the users perspective.

Mr. McCarter thanked the committee for the opportunity to review with the committee the works of SchoolNet. This program allows the users to make informed deliberate decisions in the classroom from administration, teacher, and student perspectives around how to use the limited time and resources. How to deliver deliberate data to the people who need it most.

He reviewed for the committee SchoolNet's objectives and turned the presentation over to **Mr. Dunn** to explain the experiences of Phase II of implementation. There is no downside to SchoolNet. He gave an example of how his district is using the program and all the immediate feedback that teachers and students receive. It is a great program and is correlated with the common core standards of Idaho. Currently, the teachers are inputting lesson plans for others to review. They then can collaborate with teachers all over Idaho to update their lessons.

Vice Chairman Mortimer asked how does Idaho System for Educational Excellence (ISEE) and SchoolNet fit together. **Superintendent Dunn** said so well that he often confuses one with the other. The information that schools have in ISEE are available in SchoolNet as well as the other way around. With this program the information is available to see growth based on each student, year after year, teacher to teacher.

Mr. David Rawls spoke to the committee explaining his role with SchoolNet as an ISEE Navigator and SchoolNet mentor. He spoke to the roll out of the program and how much data is available. State Superintendent Luna's requested that every district, teacher, student and parent should have the information available. It is not an easy transition, yet it will happen. His job is to look at this project as to how he can stimulate that thought that this is really bigger than learning how to use particular software. This is a philosophical point of view of looking at data and making data available. This is a superior program to any of the others they have rolled out. He wishes he had this program when he was working in school.

Senator Toryanski asked if the Students Come First laws are repealed, will this program go away? **Mr. Wheeler** answered that some of the funding comes from the Albertson's Foundation and their philosophy is they will start it up but the state will have to own it. In three years from now part of the state's budget will need to support this program.

H 633

Mike Rush, Executive Director, of the State Board of Education said in 2006 the legislature created a piece of legislation for facilities that if a facility is certifiably unsafe the state could come in and repair the building. They have built one building under that piece of legislation and learned a few lessons. This modification allows money to be spent up front to do the planning before the certification and approach the legislature if the costs are too high or there are cost overruns.

Vice Chairman Mortimer asked what are the safe guards for cost overruns. **Mr. Rush** replied in planning they can only spend \$150K. In cost overruns, they will have to come back to the legislature to get a supplemental appropriation. This is a rigorous process.

MOTION:

Vice Chairman Mortimer moved, seconded by **Senator Winder**, to send **H 633** to the floor with a do pass recommendation. The motion carried by **voice vote**. **Chairman Goedde** will carry the bill on the floor.

ADJOURNED:

Having no more business, **Chairman Goedde** adjourned the meeting at 4:32 P.M.

Senator Goedde
Chairman

LeAnn South
Secretary