

MINUTES
HOUSE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

DATE: Thursday, January 23, 2014
TIME: 9:00 A.M.
PLACE: Room EW41
MEMBERS: Chairman DeMordaunt, Vice Chairman Nielsen, Representatives Shepherd, Wills, Bateman, Boyle, Clow, Gestrin, Harris, Horman, Mendive, VanOrden, McDonald, Pence, Kloc, Rubel
**ABSENT/
EXCUSED:** Rep(s). Wills and Rubel.
GUESTS: Selena Grace, ISU; Laura Woodworth-Ny ISU; Mary Flores, LCSC; Edward Miller, LCSC; Chet Herbst, LCSC; Lori Stinson, LCSC; Kathy Martin, LCSC; Kent Tingey, ISU; Art Vailas, ISU; Tracie Burt, Board of Education; Marilyn Whitney, SBOE; Amy Nelms, SBOE; Don Burnett, University of Idaho; and Joe Stegnet, University of Idaho

Chairman DeMordaunt called the meeting to order at 9:01 a.m.

Dr. Tony Fernández, President, Lewis-Clark State College (LCSC), introduced members of his administrative staff. Dr. Fernández explained the mission of the college was connecting learning to life through academic programs, professional-technical programs and community programs.

He explained enrollment was down 4.8 percent in 2013, which was due to the federal assistance student loan program which had tightened up. Retention rate is up 10 percent for FY2014. The college offers 90,000 credit hours with the majority of credit hours taught by full-time faculty. First time passing grades exceed or match national rates in nursing, radiology technician and Teacher Praxis exams. Overall placement for academic graduates is 92 percent, and technical graduates is 96 percent. The college was recognized nationally as a school whose students provide services to the community and the region.

Dr. Fernández stated collaboration is considerable with the health industry in the area. Lewis-Clark College cooperates with all of the higher institutions in the state and out-of-state in order to provide the kind of degrees needed in our area. Over 150 regional industry services cooperate with Lewis-Clark College being a site for internships, and serve on LCSC advisory councils. The largest outreach is in Coeur d' Alene with approximately 500 students.

The budget challenges include retention of workforce with competitive salaries, sustaining current operations, increasing student enrollment, maintaining the infrastructure and minimizing student fee increases. **Dr. Fernández** reviewed the FY2015 budget requests, actual funds received and the budget challenges facing LCSC. The comprehensive 5-year strategic plan for LCSC is: sustain and enhance excellence in teaching and learning; optimize student enrollment and promote student success; strengthen and expand collaborative partnerships; and leverage resources to maximize institutional strength and efficiencies.

In response to questions, **Dr. Fernández** stated tutoring is free for students. In some internships, students receive compensation and some are non-gratuitous. Students receive credit for internships. Dr. Fernández stated approximately 50-60 percent of the students entering LCSC require remedial mathematics and 20 percent in English/Language/Arts. In order to reach the 60 percent goal in public schools, Dr. Fernández explained it is the responsibility of the entire education system within Idaho to address the problem and the goal. Idaho schools graduate a lot of students from high school, but they do not go on to college. He said there is also a need to do a better job in keeping students in college and providing them with the education that is needed in the State of Idaho.

Dr. Arthur Vailas, President, Idaho State University (ISU), introduced members of his administrative staff. He stated the mission is unusual in that ISU has technical education all the way through undergraduate, graduate and post doctorate residency programs. Dr. Vailas stated ISU educates more than 17,000 students each year, offers 285 programs from certificates to doctoral degrees and has four campus locations. During difficult/economic years, ISU has gone through a transformation in different areas with a focus on containing inflation. In a recent survey, ISU ranked as the 15th lowest-cost public university with high starting salaries for graduates. Approximately 83 percent of all graduates are employed, and 86 percent of College of Technology graduates are employed.

ISU is leading in research and innovation and has 19 health care degree programs. ISU started clinic visits in 2008 and had approximately 33,000 patient visits through education in partnerships with hospitals and community health centers. ISU has received grants which allows the school to provide health services to people who do not have insurance.

In general education, ISU is focusing on competencies. Students are expected to demonstrate oral and written communication, critical thinking, problem-solving and teamwork that will result in building the skills, flexibility, careers, entrepreneurs, and leaders required in a workforce. ISU has formed a partnership with secondary education through the Early College Program with a retention rate of 86 percent. ISU provides students with flexibility through online education. ISU's global mission is to attract international and out-of-state student enrollment. ISU provides internships to students coupled with the degree which provides a more viable opportunity for placement in the job market.

In response to questions, **Dr. Vailas** stated bridge programs have reduced the number of remediation courses for students. It is also going down from the sources working with the university. Early college students do not generally need remediation courses. Quantitative and written competencies continue to be the biggest challenge.

Dr. Vailas explained grade inflation is a problem at the high school and pre-college level; it is hard to quantify. He told committee members, ISU is looking at a composite to try and develop a better system of assessment.

Dr. Vailas explained that we are not trained very well to solve complex problems. Higher education is going through a transition of how the focus of the degree has to be the content, and how disciplines can interact in contributing to the objective of getting a degree. If a problem is very complex, it requires other view points to evaluate that problem. He said we are not currently teaching it that way, which is the real issue. ISU is looking at interdisciplinary participation in the execution of the degree credential.

Dr. Vailas stated that ISU reduced their debt the last few years by keeping tuition

contained, while maintaining the quality of courses through faculty efforts.

Dr. Laura Woodworth-Ny, Provost, was called upon to respond to questions regarding enrollment policies for Idaho residents. She stated ISU has a tight admission standard in the health/science institution and an open access admissions process for the four year bachelors degree.

Dr. Vailas stated that ISU has been supporting dual enrollment for a number of years. ISU has teacher workshops, and teachers that do work in high schools are also members of our affiliates of ISU faculty. ISU continues to grow that relationship in a number of districts. Superintendents and principals have to be supportive as well as the teachers being comfortable with ISU teachers. He said the enrollment continues to grow, and now with more resources, ISU improves the affiliations of the high schools.

Dr. Woodworth-Ny explained there is a director who travels to twenty high schools within their region. There are currently 2000 students enrolled in ISU courses at the high schools. Regarding resources required, the \$65.00 credit hour is a subsidy that allows students to complete their general education core at a much lower cost than if the student were at ISU the first two years. It also allows the student to obtain a higher credential in a lesser amount of time.

Dr. Don Burnett, Interim President, University of Idaho, introduced members of his administrative staff. He stated the University of Idaho marks its 125th anniversary of service to Idaho. Dr. Burnett explained, as Idaho's land-grant institution, the university has statewide missions in collaborative research, teaching, and outreach in support of economic development. The university has a collaborative approach to teaching, scholarship and outreach. Most productive collaborations are in science. Science is an engine of progress, and science brings money to Idaho. Grant programs at the university support related programs in science and health.

The university has experienced an increase in Hispanic and military veteran enrollment. Thirty-five percent of the freshman class comes from first-generation families that had not previously taken advantage of higher education opportunities. Through funding from the Albertson's Foundation, the University of Idaho is working to enhance teaching and leadership in Idaho's K-12 education system through the Doceo Center. The university is building science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) skills through programs such as the McCall Outdoor Science School, and an initiative called Guided Pathways to Success in STEM careers.

Dr. Burnett stated the University of Idaho is classified by the Carnegie Foundation as a "high research activity" institution among national research universities. The University leads the state by attracting grants and contracts of more than \$100 million. The university has undertaken a program prioritization process called "Focus for the Future," which is aimed at evaluating all academic programs and nonacademic activities, prioritizing them, discontinuing and consolidating programs that are inefficient, and investing in programs that perform more highly in fulfillment of research, teaching and outreach missions.

In response to questions, **Dr. Burnett** stated that tracking employment outcomes, particularly for Baccalaureate recipients, is something the universities can improve upon. The universities are not as good at tracking the outcome three to five years out. At the University of Idaho Law School, the last set of data reflected 92 percent of the students had achieved their employment destination or gone on to other higher education. The College of Science reported educational outcomes reflects 5 percent, or fewer, are looking for jobs following graduation from last spring.

ADJOURN: There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting was adjourned at 10:45 a.m.

Representative DeMordaunt
Chair

Lisa Hamlin
Secretary