

MINUTES
SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

- DATE:** Wednesday, January 27, 2016
- TIME:** 3:00 P.M.
- PLACE:** Room WW55
- MEMBERS PRESENT:** Chairman Mortimer, Vice Chairman Thayn, Senators Nonini, Patrick, Souza, Den Hartog, Anthon, Buckner-Webb and Ward-Engelking
- ABSENT/ EXCUSED:** None
- 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 Mortimer** called the Education Committee (Committee) to order at 3:00 p.m.
- PRESENTATION:** **Dr. J. Anthony Fernandez**, President, Lewis-Clark State College (LCSC), thanked the Committee and Legislature for their support. **Dr. Fernandez** explained the mission of the college. He talked about the demographics of LCSC. Seventy percent of the student body are first-generation college students. In a presentation, he outlined the many strengths of LCSC that make it a great institution for higher learning.
- Dr. Fernandez** outlined for the Committee the five-year strategic plan and explained how LCSC intends to achieve those goals. The four pillars of the plan are to sustain excellence in teaching and learning; optimize student enrollment; strengthen collaborative relationships; and maximize institutional strength and efficiency.
- Dr. Fernandez** explained that LCSC's enrollment has stabilized over the last three years. There has been a rise in dual credit enrollment. The degrees and certificates that are awarded annually are increasing, and this aligns with the Governor's goals. LCSC tracks their former students' career paths. **Dr. Fernandez** noted that 67 percent of their graduates are working in Idaho. He reported employers' high level of satisfaction with LCSC graduates.
- Dr. Fernandez** outlined the key budget requests for the fiscal year (FY) 2017. The first priority is to increase employee compensation to a level competitive with other institutions. He then spoke to specifics in the budget, naming the departments in need of professional instructors. **Dr. Fernandez** explained that the LCSC campus has many old buildings that require funds to bring them up to date with new safety and maintenance features.
- Dr. Fernandez** concluded that LCSC supports the industry in North Idaho through outreach from the small business development center and the workforce development efforts (see attachment 1).
- Vice Chairman Thayn** asked about the need to hire a Hispanic Coordinator and if that would be in the Boise location. **Dr. Fernandez** confirmed that yes, if they received funds for that position, the person would be stationed in Boise to be closer to the Hispanic population that they would serve. **Vice Chairman Thayn** asked what that counselor's interaction with students would look like. **Dr. Fernandez** explained that the person would meet with high school students and parents and familiarize them with the college application process, especially at LCSC.

Senator Den Hartog asked how much the college would need to spend for federal compliance with Title IX regulations. **Dr. Fernandez** answered he didn't have an exact amount, but a staff member at one fourth of his/her time was not enough. He estimated that for a full time job, the salary would be six figures.

Chairman Mortimer thanked Dr. Fernandez and their staff for his work at LCSC.

Dr. Chuck Staben, President, University of Idaho (UI), presented to the Committee the activities of the UI on campus, in the community and around the state. **Dr. Staben** spoke about the excellence of the UI and how it meets the needs of the State in both education and research. He outlined the educational opportunities of UI and how those dovetail into the work and culture of the state. He highlighted many of the UI's accomplishments locally and nationally. He briefed the committee on the demographics of the students. **Dr. Staben** noted the positive statewide economic impact of the UI.

He continued that the University has a positive impact on students as well, because there is a high return on their investment in education. **Dr. Staben** explained the importance of the College Scorecard as a way of comparing institutions in an impartial way. He demonstrated how well the UI compared to national averages of annual cost, graduation rates and salary after attending. **Dr. Staben** said the UI is committed to funding scholarships to help students attend the university.

Dr. Staben provided the FY 2017 priorities of UI, which revolve around investing in student success through counseling, retention, tutoring and supplemental instruction. He also reported that Idaho ranks very low in number of physicians, which is something the UI would like to increase through the Washington, Wyoming, Alaska, Montana and Idaho (WWAMI) Medical Education Program and the University of Washington (see attachment 2). **Dr. Staben** concluded by emphasizing the greatness of the UI and thanked the Committee for their time.

Senator Souza asked what the four-year graduation rate is. **Dr. Staben** said the four-year graduation rate is at 40 percent, which is higher than rates for other public universities. He added the UI would like to see that number increase to 60 percent.

Maria Johnson-Lorcher, Legislative Chair for the Parent Teacher Association (PTA), reported to the Committee the workings of the organization. She stated that all those who are part of the PTA are volunteers. She highlighted many areas of success: bullying prevention programs, English language arts literacy and mathematics content standards, art programs, legislative initiatives and elimination of school fees in the classrooms (see attachment 3).

Senator Den Hartog commented that she appreciated and supported the continued involvement of the PTA with the Committee. **Senator Patrick** asked for more information about the email filtering and do-not-call lists that Ms. Johnson-Lorcher brought up. **Ms. Johnson-Lorcher** explained that the sign-up would be voluntary and there would be upcoming legislation that would address it. **Chairman Mortimer** asked what the PTA is doing to encourage parent and student involvement and teacher improvement. **Ms. Johnson-Lorcher** said the PTA focuses on creating a safe environment for students as well as social support through parent volunteering. She continued that the PTA works directly with teachers to provide them with more funding.

Chairman Mortimer commented that many schools are struggling academically and wondered what the PTA is doing to help improve that. **Ms. Johnson-Lorcher** explained that parents volunteer to help in classrooms, especially during math lessons. She elaborated that the PTA wants to be the support staff for teachers. There are no academic standards from the Idaho PTA.

S 1209 **Blake Youde**, Chief Communications and Legislative Affairs Officer, Idaho State Board of Education (Board), presented **S 1209**, relating to general powers of the Board of Trustees of Community College Districts. The purpose of this set of rule changes is to amend, correct, clarify powers and make technical corrections. He said that this amends Idaho Code § 33-2107 to require the board of trustees of a community college district to obtain an appraisal prior to the purchase or disposal of property. He stated that **S 1209** adds language stating that this be done in the manner as prescribed by schools district trustees of the state.

Mr. Youde highlighted that Idaho Code § 33-601 requires that within one year prior to the purchase or disposal of property, school district boards must have property appraised. This amendment extends that requirement to community college districts. The Board has included this as part of their Legislative agenda. These provisions promote fiscal accountability and transparency.

MOTION: **Senator Souza** moved to send **S 1209** to print. **Senator Buckner-Webb** seconded the motion. Motion was passed by **voice vote**. **Senator Souza** will carry **S 1209**.

S 1210 **Mr. Youde** presented **S 1210** relating to Career Technical Education. The purpose is to make technical corrections and change the name of the agency from Professional Technical Education to Career Technical Education. This change will bring new opportunities for grant funding and is consistent with industry standards (see attachment 5).

MOTION: **Senator Patrick** moved to send **S 1210** with a **do pass** recommendation. **Senator Den Hartog** seconded the motion. Motion passed by **voice vote**. **Senator Patrick** will carry the bill.

ADJOURNED: There being no further business, **Chairman Mortimer** adjourned the meeting at 4:10 p.m.

Senator Dean M. Mortimer
Chair

LeAnn Mohr
Secretary

Anna Roser
Assistant