

MINUTES
SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

- DATE:** Monday, January 23, 2012
- TIME:** Chairman Goedde called the meeting to order at 3:00 P.M. and asked the secretary to take a silent roll.
- PLACE:** Room WW55
- MEMBERS PRESENT:** Chairman Goedde, Vice Chairman Mortimer, Senators Fulcher, Winder, Toryanski, and Malepeai
- ABSENT/ EXCUSED:** Senators Andreason, Pearce, and LeFavour
- 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.
- MINUTES:** The minutes for January 11, 2012 were presented to the committee for approval.
- MOTION:** **Senator Toryanski** moved, seconded by **Senator Malepeai**, that the minutes of January 11, 2012, be approved as written. The motion carried by **voice-vote**.
- MINUTES:** The minutes for January 12, 2012 were presented to the committee for approval.
- MOTION:** **Vice Chairman Mortimer** moved, seconded by **Senator Fulcher**, that the minutes of January 12, 2012, be approved as written. The motion carried by **voice-vote**.
- MINUTES:** The minutes for January 16, 2012 were presented to the committee for approval.
- MOTION:** **Senator Winder** moved, and seconded by **Vice Chairman Mortimer**, that the minutes of January 16, 2012, be approved as written. The motion carried by **voice-vote**.
- PRESENTATION:** **Chairman Goedde** welcomed the group from Idaho State University. **President Arthur C. Vailas** introduced **Kent Kunz**, Director of Governmental Relations, **Dick Jacobsen**, Associate Vice President of Research, and **Laura Woodworth-Nye**, Associate Vice President of Academic Affairs.
- President Vailas** stated that ISU's mission is one dedicated economic development, to offer opportunity for our Idaho citizens and others, to obtain degrees and certificates. There is a community college model imbedded in the University's curriculum. Supporting documents related to this testimony have been archived and can be accessed in the office of the Committee Secretary. Supporting document related to this testimony have been archived and can be accessed in the office of the Committee Secretary (see Attachment #1).
- Partnerships with businesses and agencies are essential to ISU. Currently, of the three research universities, ISU has the highest dual enrollment in the state. Educating returning veterans is priority of the university and currently there is about 1,100 enrolled in Pocatello and Idaho Falls campuses. ISU provided a new space for the veteran and his family that offers career and personal counseling. This program has been cited by a national review group as being one of the top veteran programs in the nation.
- Dr. Vailas spoke to the curriculum of ISU stating that approximately nineteen percent of the courses are online. This provides flexibility for students, which is an important factor. He spoke about the instructional alignment program and thanked the State Board of Education for their support.

The support of the legislature and community partners has allowed ISU to expand its healthcare mission in the state. The university has built two comprehensive healthcare centers; one in Eastern Idaho and the other in Meridian. This program is making healthcare more affordable and attainable in rural communities. ISU reinvests the revenue from those centers to continue to improve services at the sites.

In regards to the energy enterprises of the state, ISU is a major stakeholder. Using the connection with the Center for Advanced Energy Studies, ISU has been able to grow collaborations with other pristine universities and garner new faculty positions and major grants. The university is becoming reputable across the nation in its energy studies.

The University acquired another high-tech facility in Pocatello. It is a 200,000 square foot building that will be used in collaboration with businesses to make available a variety of new career opportunities: Included in those are Homeland security, energy, and other technical entities

ISU is a major contributor to the economic development in Eastern Idaho and parts of the Treasure Valley. ISU is the steward of Idaho's natural history museum and the Smithsonian Institute is interested in forming a partnership in this endeavor. The direct financial impact that ISU has on Idaho's economy is \$312 million a year. When the alumni are added to those figures it becomes \$812 million a year. These figures support a great economic outlook for the state.

Chairman Goedde thanked **Dr. Vailas** for his presentation and opened for questions from the committee.

Vice Chairman Mortimer complimented **Dr. Vailas** on the successes of the university and asked him to explain the deferred Maintenance 5-year projections and which will be the first that the university will address. **Dr. Vailas** replied the plans change with emergencies. Recently, the university was advised to tear down a building for safety purposes. This procedure was not on the priority list and this has caused some problems. The university is working to improve the classrooms, living environment, and the building built in the 60's need to be brought up to date. **Vice Chairman Mortimer** stated that some campuses are working to use the facilities more and making them available to use at different unique times. **Dr Vailas** replied that many classes are offered by digital video at night and there are some classes on the weekends. Many ISU students do not want to use the weekend for classes they would rather take more online classes.

Senator Winder thanked him for being here and providing the information. He asked if there is a partnership between the Idaho Nuclear Engineering Lab (INEL) and ISU. **Dr. Vailas** stated that there are quite a few ISU programs with the Laboratory, however, all of the state's universities are involved with INEL. From the national perspective Idaho is viewed as a leader in nuclear research.

Senator Fulcher commented that he was not aware of the role that ISU had with the natural museum and wanted to know where the information is housed. Is there any coordination with the state's Historical Museum or Historical Society? **Dr. Vailas** replied that the university stores the state's natural history and has been involved for a number of years. They have just started to accelerate the investment in the museum and has created partnerships with other agencies too. The university is working with small towns in Idaho and can transport many artifacts or duplications. Using the virtual options of the museum the university is reinforcing K-12 learning.

Chairman Goedde asked how many traditional students are taking the online classes. **Dr. Vailas** called to the podium **Laura Woodworth-Nye** to explain. **Ms. Woodworth-Nye** stated that the majority of online classes are being taken by traditional students.

Senator Toryanski asked what is the need for remediation classes. **Dr. Vailas** said 20 to 25 percent of new students need some sort of remediation. To meet the State Board of Education 2020 goal, remediation issues need to be tackled aggressively. Idaho students are not prepared for college and it is a problem. **Senator Toryanski** then asked what could be done to reduce remediation. **Dr. Vailas** stated that it is a very complex problem with the biggest problems in math, writing, and comprehension. The state needs to be willing to make an investment in the profession of teaching; what are teachers taught and what are they paid. Preparation of teachers and student family involvement is vital to solve the remediation issue.

Senator Pearce asked what ISU is doing to improve the teaching abilities of future teachers. **Dr. Vailas** doesn't believe that it has to do with tenure instead it is just people not wanting to try something new. The College of Education has taken on major reforms in how it prepares students for becoming teachers. There has been a cultural shift in the universities as to how professors teach. ISU has also implemented a variety of programs to measure new teacher success.

Senator Malepeai commented that it never ceased to amaze him how much ISU is an integral part of his community. Universities are an engine for economies in the cities they are located; they make our communities more prosperous.

Dr. Vailas closed by thanking the committee for giving him the time to present.

PRESENTATION: **Chairman Goedde** welcomed **Dr. Bret Glandon**, President College of Western Idaho to the podium. **Dr. Glandon** introduced **Rick Ammon** Vice President of Instruction and Civil Services; **Cheryl Wright**, Vice President of Finance and Administration; and **Jeff Shinn**, Budget Director. He then expressed his appreciation to the committee for making the students' dreams happen. From his power point presentation, he outlined the growth of the institution noting that it is the fastest growing community college in the history of community colleges. Supporting documents related to this testimony have been archived and can be accessed in the office of the Committee Secretary (see Attachment #2).

The community college is focused on providing educational opportunities. CWI works to overcome obstacles of higher education, one is the cost of education. Students are able to obtain higher education by the traditional and virtual delivery methods; the traditional delivery is still the most popular. There are seven full degrees offered online. The college has a large teaching staff with some full-time and adjunct teachers as well as many community leaders making presentations.

CWI works with students in high school to obtain dual credits and directly supports the State Board of Education's 2020 goal. In the ten counties the college serves, it is committed to have the dual credit program in every high school.

Dr. Glandon updated the committee on the accreditation time line for the college. The commission met with the college in January and they are waiting to hear if they have received Candidacy Status for accreditation. The goal is to be accredited as a traditional and virtual college campus.

The cost of education is rising and majority of the revenue comes from tuition. The key to keep the costs down is collaboration with agencies and businesses, this allows access to services and funds. The students rely on financial aid due to the fact the majority of the population that CWI serves are economically at-risk students. CWI's Foundation also works to offset the cost of education. There are 25 community members who serve on the Foundation Board and work to raise and manage donations to the college.

Dr. Glandon then reviewed the student successes for graduation and job placement. CWI will track those students that attend the state universities in order to measure the college's progress. The current budget cuts have created some challenges for CWI, which will continue until the enrollment numbers level out. The college is on target with the goals set before them. He thanked the committee and legislature for the help to CWI but must remind them that they should stay flexible and adaptable to the growth process of the college.

Chairman Goedde thanked **Dr. Glandon** and asked for questions from the committee.

Senator Winder asked **Dr. Glandon** to comment on how the non-traditional students can get their algebra or English skills up to date before they take the Compass Test. **Dr. Glandon** replied that there have been conversations in the community college environment regarding the new concept called "Mega Labs" that could help the returning student. These are self-based, self-starter programs that discover what skills the student is lacking. The students in a tutored lab, work to improve their skills before they take the Compass Test. CWI is looking at adding this program to its repertoire.

Senator Winder then addressed the issue of student debt stating that a large percentage of students have loans and it is more difficult for that demographic to pay back those loans. Is CWI doing anything to help the student understand their responsibility to pay back the debt? Are there alternatives to loans available for students? **Dr. Glandon** stated that the college is very aggressive about debt. They suggest to students to first try to qualify for a Pell Grant, which they don't have to pay back, before they take out a loan. Scholarship funds are never enough and about 73 percent of the student population works part or full time to pay for schooling. However, the population that CWI serves tends to be prone to debt.

Senator Pearce acknowledged the amazing growth at CWI and asked whether the enrollment is still growing or slowing down. **Dr. Glandon** stated that CWI achieved the five year plan in two years, now they are working on a new five year plan. Based on community college formulas for students per base population or area served, growth probably will not slow down until there are 35,000 enrolled.

Chairman Goedde thanked **Dr. Glandon** for the update and wished them well in their success.

ADJOURN: **Chairman Goedde** adjourned the meeting at 4:33 P.M.

Senator Goedde
Chairman

LeAnn South
Secretary