

MINUTES  
**HOUSE EDUCATION COMMITTEE**

**DATE:** Tuesday, January 24, 2012  
**TIME:** 9:00 A.M.  
**PLACE:** Room EW41  
**MEMBERS:** Chairman Nonini, Vice Chairman Shirley, Representative(s) Trail, Block, Nielsen, Chadderdon, Shepherd, Wills, Marriott, Thayn, Hartgen, Bateman, Boyle, DeMordaunt, Nessel, Pence, Chew, Cronin  
**ABSENT/  
EXCUSED:** Representative Nielsen  
**GUESTS:** Representative Henderson; Arthur Vailas, Kent Kunz, and Kent Tingey, Idaho State University; Duane Nellis, Joe Stegner and Ysabel Bilbao, University of Idaho; Jess Harrison, Idaho School Boards Association (ISBA); Phil Homer and Rob Winslow, Idaho Association of School Administrators (IASA); Benjamin Davenport, Risch Pisca; Hannah Blankenship, Samantha Perez, Stephen Parrott, and Bruno Bennett, Associated Students of University of Idaho (ASUI); Marilyn Whitney, State Board of Education (SBE)

**Chairman Nonini** called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

**MOTION:** **Rep. Thayn** made a motion to approve the minutes of January 19, 2012, with the following changes: on page one (1), under **RS 20854**, change the word "Internet" to "Interstate", and in the section of discussion on the motion for **Docket No. 08-0109-1101**, delete **Rep. Wills** and insert **Rep. Nielsen**. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

**RS 20998:** **Rep. Henderson** presented **RS 20998**. He explained that this legislation would increase the Board of Trustees at each community college from five to seven members, in order to allow better representation by members of the communities that the colleges serve. He briefly discussed changing trends at community colleges.

**MOTION:** **Rep. Shirley** moved to introduce **RS 20998**. **Motion carried by voice vote.**  
In response to questions, **Rep. Henderson** stated that in the case of a newly annexed area, there could be eight (8) trustees, however, only seven (7) would vote. Delays are expected. Trustees represent a broad segment of the economy, rather than a neighborhood with boundaries. They attempt to provide programs that serve an entire area.

**VOTE ON  
MOTION:** **Motion carried by voice vote.**

**Arthur Vailas**, President of Idaho State University (ISU), gave a presentation to the committee. He stated that the last few years have been difficult economically for everyone. The ISU College of Technology has trained workers for companies that have brought jobs to Idaho. Innovation has been at the forefront of education. ISU has played a major role in bringing interests and applications to Idaho. Partnerships with community colleges, K-12 and dual enrollment are important to ISU. Thirty eight percent (38%) of ISU's portfolio is dedicated to health education and healthcare. A comprehensive health science center has been opened to serve the community. Two-thirds (2/3) of the workforce is made up of ISU students.

The Career Path Initiative (CPI) Program allows students in good academic standing to gain work experience that mirrors their academic interests. This is an important program in student recruitment and retention.

Idaho State University is partnering with Idaho Public Television on a program called The Idaho State of Mind. It is run by ISU students and focuses on issues that are of interest to Idahoans. This is another way that ISU students are able to experience hands-on learning and gain specialized skills that will help them in the workforce.

Collaboration between students of various disciplines and interests is important to ISU. **President Vailas** stated that modern challenges are complex, and will only be met with complex solutions. Students in creative disciplines are mixing with those in technological disciplines, and all together they are learning to solve problems and contribute.

A recent audit at ISU showed that \$446 million is needed for deferred maintenance of their public buildings. Recently a building had to be unexpectedly vacated. A number of upgrades to classrooms, information technology and dorms have been made.

Advisory programs, access to classes and degrees, and flexibility through information technology have been priorities. Video and web based classes offer students an opportunity to receive information at times that fit into their individual schedules.

In response to questions, **President Vailas** stated that every higher education institution would have to be examined individually for areas in which administrative changes can be made that might lead to cost savings. Audits, accountability and demands on financial reporting are all changing. At ISU there has been a reduced employee turnover this year, around six to seven percent (6% to 7%), perhaps due to greater scrutiny during the hiring process. There are measures in place to track efficiency and effectiveness in each program. ISU is working with the Department of Public Works to set priorities for the \$446 million that is needed in deferred maintenance. The first priority is safety. The second is to ensure that students' needs are met affordably and that what they need is accessible.

In response to additional questions, **President Vailas** stated that ISU has benefitted from partnering with BYU Idaho. Students are also benefitting from an online learning environment. Many students utilize online options for taking additional courses to facilitate early graduation, or to participate in classes that might be full but available online.

**Duane Nellis**, President of the University of Idaho (UI), gave a presentation to the committee. The University of Idaho was originally part of a land grant made by the Moral Act, which gave land to universities to allow Americans to receive higher education.

Innovative teaching and quality of education are key components of the University of Idaho's programs. UI works closely with K-12 to ensure that there is a pipeline of students moving into higher education. Dual enrollment has doubled in the last year. There are 372 physicians who were products of UI practicing across Idaho.

Research is performed by students and faculty. Nearly seventy percent (70%) of undergraduate students participate in research activities or other creative activities. Students and faculty work in the fields of biomedical research, engineering, and agriculture. Student teams, who recently worked for Boeing, created a device prototype that is now being used in cutting mills in production of Boeing aircraft.

Outreach and public service are important at UI. Students may receive credit or may simply volunteer. They have worked with the Basque Museum, Native American tribes, and other local groups. They also support a large 4-H program. The University of Idaho has the only Idaho ROTC program that represents all four military branches. A scholarship program provides assistance to disabled veterans and their spouses. UI was ranked third most affordable in the nation by Newsweek magazine. UI has the only law school in the state of Idaho. The UI law school was ranked above Harvard Law.

Student retention, graduation rates, and research productivity are strong. Eighty percent (80%) of freshmen students return for their sophomore year. This is up four percent (4%) from last year. Graduation rates are almost twice as high as any other Idaho university. There are currently more than 250 partnerships with the private sector, allowing students and the state to benefit from UI's research activities. More than half of all STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics) undergraduate degrees in the state of Idaho come from UI.

Costs have increased by forty percent (40%), but the university has been working with budget cuts. Faculty positions, departments, and 263 class sections have been eliminated. UI has expanded summer courses, online learning, and public private partnerships.

In response to questions, **President Nellis** stated that a new CEO, Charles Buck, has been hired and is expected to be outstanding in the expansion in North Idaho. IGEM (Idaho Global Entrepreneurial Mission) monies will assist universities to develop new intellectual property and to create new partnerships. The Laboratory for Applied Sciences Research is a new 501(c)(3) organization created at the UI.

**Samantha Perez**, President of the Associated Students of the University of Idaho (ASUI), addressed the committee. She stated she chose the University of Idaho because they were doing great things in Moscow. She believed that the university's name would be important to potential employers. During her sophomore year, she travelled with a group of students to Mississippi to provide Hurricane Katrina relief. Even five years after the hurricane, there were people living in temporary housing and in extreme poverty. She has now been elected Student Body President. She stated that as a small town girl, she did not imagine that she would have these opportunities for service. She expressed that last year, 99% of graduating seniors stated in a survey that they were very happy to have received their education at the University of Idaho.

**ADJOURN:** There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting was adjourned at 11:02 a.m.

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Representative Nonini  
Chair

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Mary Tipps  
Secretary