

MINUTES
SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

- DATE:** Wednesday, January 25, 2012
- TIME:** **Chairman Goedde** called the meeting to order at 3:07 P.M. and asked the secretary to take a silent roll.
- PLACE:** Room WW55
- MEMBERS PRESENT:** Chairman Goedde, Vice Chairman Mortimer, Senators Andreason, Pearce, Fulcher, Winder, Toryanski, Malepeai, and LeFavour
- ABSENT/ EXCUSED:**
- 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:** **Chairman Goedde** welcomed **University of Idaho President Duane Nellis** to the committee. **President Nellis** introduced the University of Idaho contingency.
- PRESENTATION:** **Dr. Nellis** reflected back on the history of the land grant system. He explained that each state has a land grant university and named some of the prestigious ones noting that the University of Idaho (U of I) was in great company. The University has 70 physical locations in Idaho. The extension offices serve 42 of the 44 counties of Idaho. The University is accomplishing the statewide mission of this land grant institution. The focus is on three key areas: teaching, research, and outreach in service.
- Dr. Nellis** briefly talked about the three areas of service. In the area of teaching, the university educates many of the different professions in the state from teachers, superintendents and physicians to business leaders. He gave accolades to many of the University's past alumni and their contributions to Idaho's economy.
- At the University of Idaho over 70 percent of all students directly experience working on research projects and creative activities. This distinction allows the University of Idaho students to compete and win highly esteemed scholarships. These students are doing research with top-notch faculty in the areas of agriculture, engineering, bio-medicine, and many others.
- Public service and outreach for students is also a priority for the University of Idaho. Everyone is encouraged to do a community activity and/or volunteer work. In the past year students and faculty have worked in 160 different community service opportunities throughout Idaho and the world. The extension offices throughout the state have impacted over 400,000 Idahoans.
- U of I is the only university in the state that has all four branches of the military on campus. **Dr. Nellis** then listed great leaders that have been trained and educated at the university. He further the discussion in mentioning Operation Education which helps disabled veterans and their spouses to attend college at a reduced cost. U of I was first in the nation to establish this program and *G.I. Jobs*, the military magazine, states that the University of Idaho is a military friendly school.
- Dr. Nellis** mentioned that the University receives a great deal of national recognition. *Newsweek* magazine named U of I the third most affordable quality college in the nation. He added that the U of I ranks high in many other educational journals.

The State Board Of Education has set a goal that by 2020, 60 percent of Idahoans ages 25-34 have some type of post secondary education whether it be a certificate, an associates' degree or a four year degree. **Dr. Nellis** has set the University's goal for 2020, there will be 16,000 students enrolled and that is 33% growth. To fill that goal the University has made the commitment to serve the high school students going to college. Of the current freshman class 75 percent are from Idaho and 34 percent are first in their family to go to college. There are currently 17 National Merit scholars attending the University of Idaho, making the campus the largest class of merit scholars in all the northwest colleges.

The three areas that are the strongest and best reflect the of mission of the state's land grant university: retention rates, graduation rates, and major research mission collaborations. **Dr. Nellis** then outlined those successes with examples.

Dr. Nellis then addressed funding the University. He spoke to the increases in costs, reductions in enrollment, and staff/faculty salaries. Some staff and faculty positions have been eliminated and there have not been salary increases for the past four years. He believes that faculty will look elsewhere and the University's ability to recruit will be diminished. This scenario lessens student learning opportunities. He highly supports the Governor's higher education budget proposal.

Senator Andreason asked how staff morale was doing with the lack of salary increases. **Dr. Nellis** answered that the University is losing some star staff members. Many would like to stay in Idaho but need more money. Their morale is low and they need some indication that the work they do is rewarded; especially those that have worked hard. **Senator Andreason** then asked him how difficult it would be to replace the lost staff and faculty. **Dr. Nellis** said that it is difficult to replace senior faculty but they could be replaced with younger employees. By choosing that route, there is a loss of the institutional memory and the competitive edge.

Vice Chairman Mortimer asked **Dr. Nellis** to identify maintenance projects for the school. **Dr. Nellis** called **Dr. Ron Smith**, Vice President of Finance, to the podium to answer that question. **Dr. Smith** stated that the education building and some research labs are being updated. Some buildings are being reroofed.

Chairman Goedde asked what percentage of classes offer online courses. **Dr. Nellis** responded that only about 10 percent does, however, the University has hired a person to expand the number of classes offered because the current online results are very positive. **Chairman Goedde** stated that high school students with online acquired college credits gravitate to schools with online classes.

Senator Fulcher asked about the status of the law school and its presence in Boise. **Dr. Nellis** indicated that currently only a portion of the third year law students are in Boise. The school is located at the Water Center Building on Front Street. Those that are in Boise are specializing in business and intellectual law. In the near future the University would like to request that there would be a three year law school in Boise as well as the one in Moscow.

Senator Malepeai commented positively on the 80 percent retention rate and asked about the specific reason for that high rate. **Dr. Nellis** answered that all freshmen are required to live on campus and it gives them the support that they need to be successful. The Student Option Advising Retreat (SOAR) system identifies struggling freshmen and works with them to meet their educational goals.

Senator Pearce then asked what the university system is doing to help the new teachers, K-12, to be successful in the classroom. **Dr. Nellis** called the Dean of Education, **Dr. Corrine Mantle-Bromley** to the podium to address this question. **Dr. Mantle-Bromley** believes that the university is doing a good job but there are some areas that they are working to improve. Currently, the school is piloting a new system called the National Teachers' Performance Assessment which requires student teachers to video, view, and critique their teaching methods.

Dr. Nellis then introduced and called **Samantha Perez** Associated Student Body President for the University of Idaho to the podium to make her presentation. **Ms. Perez** stated that she was exposed to the campus when she was in high school and knew that she wanted to graduate from the institution. Because it is a residential campus it enables students to become close and develop a Vandal family. She stated that she has had the opportunity to perform community service activities and she went on a service trip at spring break in the Gulf Coast. Being a student at the University has enriched her networking opportunities by meeting alumni throughout Idaho. As student body president she had the opportunity to partner with the U of I administration to help make decisions that affect students. In closing **Ms. Perez** thanked the committee for the support they have given to the University of Idaho.

Vice-Chairman Mortimer also thanked her and complemented her for being a good representative of Rigby High School, his alma mater.

PRESENTATION: **Chairman Goedde** welcomed **Dr. Jerry Beck**, President of the College of Southern Idaho (CSI) to make a presentation. He stated that the college is working on their accreditation which moved from a 10 year cycle to now a 7 year cycle. CSI is the lead partner for College of Western Idaho (CWI) and is helping them with their accreditation process. Because, CWI is in its infancy, CSI enrolls all CWI students and grants all the degrees until that school is accredited. This has been a positive partnership.

There has been a large growth in student enrollment. One of the fastest growth areas is in online education. Thirty percent of the people that take the online courses are students who live on campus. Online enrollment is driven by students' schedules and often the only time they can take a course is if it is offered online. The school is in the process of learning what online classes appeal to students. Once the information is researched the college will know what to offer and when to offer online classes.

Dual credit is another major area of success for the college. These credits are provided to targeted schools in the college's service area. The goal is to expand the number of high schools where dual credit is offered. **Dr. Beck** emphasized the importance of dual credit by stating the fact that students who participate in the dual credit program stay in school, graduate, go on to higher education, and have an improved success rate.

Dr. Beck continued the presentation explaining the economic and financial issues that CSI has encountered. With the current economic situation in the state, student fees and tuition pay for the largest share of costs at CSI. His appeal for CSI is that every one of the Governor's budget requests for the college be supported. There needs to be equity within the current community college funding environment. Property tax support needs to be reviewed and adjusted accordingly for the counties that support CWI. He then concluded the presentation stating that if there is more money in the budget, CSI would like to put that toward a variety of priorities that will benefit the students. Supporting documents related to this testimony have been archived and can be assessed in the office of the Committee Secretary (see Attachment #1).

Chairman Goedde asked **Dr. Beck** to provide the committee with information regarding student debt. **Dr. Beck** replied that CSI provides all of the financial aid for CWI as well as their own campus, so the financial aid looks out of proportion. Student financial loans are a concern and the college tries to get students to apply for grants and scholarships before they take out a loan.

Senator Andreason stated that financial loans are a concern of his. What can be done to make it more difficult for students to get the loans? **Dr. Beck** replied the federal government regulates those loans and institutions have very little control over the lending. Some students need loans to get an education.

Senator Malepeai noted that for many students who struggled through high school, community colleges give them a second chance. He asked what the likelihood would be that those returning students would receive a state funded scholarship? **Dr. Beck** replied that because those students are not traditional students often they do not qualify for those scholarships.

Senate LeFavour stated that college tuition in Idaho should be reviewed. Maybe in the future there would be adjustments to make school affordable for those returning non-traditional students.

ADJOURN: **Chairman Goedde** adjourned the meeting at 4:44 PM.

Senator Goedde
Chairman

LeAnn South
Secretary