

MINUTES  
**SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE**

- DATE:** Wednesday, January 16, 2013
- TIME:** 3:00 P.M.
- PLACE:** Room WW55
- MEMBERS PRESENT:** Chairman Goedde, Vice Chairman Mortimer, Senators Pearce, Fulcher, Nonini, Thayn, Patrick, Durst and Buckner-Webb
- 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.
- CONVENED:** **Chairman Goedde** convened the meeting at 3:03 p.m., and a silent roll was taken.
- MOTION:** Motion by **Senator Buckner-Webb** to approve Education Committee Minutes dated January 8, 2013; seconded by **Vice Chairman Mortimer**. The motion carried by **voice vote**.
- PRESENTATION:** **Chairman Goedde** then welcomed **Dr. Mary Barinaga**, Assistant Clinical Dean for Regional Affairs and Idaho WWAMI Clinical Medical Education Coordinator. After reviewing her educational and professional background, **Dr. Barinaga** introduced WWAMI, a five-state regional medical education program covering Washington, Wyoming, Alaska, Montana and Idaho in partnership with the University of Washington. The goals and successes of WWAMI's program over its 40 year history are detailed in **Dr. Barinaga's** PowerPoint presentation which is attached and incorporated by reference. She noted an important component of this program is called TRUST, Targeted Rural Under-Served Track, to identify applicants who are from rural, under-served backgrounds and then match them in rural, under-served communities in Idaho during the clinical phases of training.
- Senator Nonini** asked about the requirement of some WWAMI states for students to return and practice in their home state. Idaho does not have that requirement. **Dr. Barinaga's** concern is that a return requirement could result in fewer applicants, as has been the case in Alaska and Wyoming. **Dr. Barinaga** added that one aspect of WWAMI in Idaho requires that each student pay \$1600 per year into a Rural Physician's Retention Fund. Then, anyone who returns to Idaho to practice can apply to this fund for up to \$50,000 for student loan repayment. This program has been the alternative "carrot" rather than a requirement "stick."
- Senator Pearce** asked several questions concerning Idaho enrollments as compared to other states. **Dr. Barinaga** stated that it is more difficult to get into medical school as an Idaho resident than for any adjoining state. Wyoming currently accepts approximately 50 per cent of applicants. In contrast, Idaho had 158 applicants this year for 20 openings. WWAMI's goal is to increase the number of participating students from 20 to 25 in fiscal year 2014.

Since the four-year cost is approximately \$800,000 per student, **Vice Chairman Mortimer** questioned the value of increasing WWAMI's enrollment rather than simply recruiting more doctors to the State. **Dr. Barinaga** pointed out that hospitals also spend money to recruit doctors to the State. On the other hand, if you train a physician in the State and they stay in the State, then you do not need to spent recruitment dollars at all. Furthermore, the TRUST program targets rural under-served areas which might not see a benefit from mere recruitment. **Dr. Barinaga** pointed out variables beyond the State's control, such as a medical student marrying and moving to another state, but that can just as easily happen in reverse. **Chairman Goedde** thanked **Dr. Barinaga** for her presentation. He will present before the Joint Finance and Appropriations Committee and make recommendations on where money might be spent. WWAMI will be one program under consideration.

**PRESENTATION:** **Chairman Goedde** next introduced **Paul Headlee** from the Legislative Services Office, Budget and Policy Analysis Division, with a look at the fiscal impact of Propositions 1, 2, and 3. **Mr. Headlee's** in-depth report is well summarized in his handouts, which are attached hereto and incorporated by reference. Propositions 1, 2 and 3 created a Net Amount Remaining in Appropriation of \$30.6 million. In his presentation, **Mr. Headlee** posited three options for these funds. The first option is to take no further legislative action, in which case, the \$30.6 million remains in the appropriation until the end-of-year reconciliation in June 2013. If funds remain after the reconciliation, then those remaining funds are transferred into the Public Education Stabilization Fund (PESF).

However, Propositions 1, 2, and 3 repealed \$37.4 million of funding disbursements to school districts in the 2012-2013 school year. These included cuts to Staffing Flexibility (Use it/Lose it Provision), Dual Credit for Early Completers Program, funding for additional math and science teachers, refreezing of education credits on salary table, as well as the second distribution on classroom technology.

Option 2 would involve legislative action to distribute the \$30.6 million (Net Amount Remaining in Appropriation) to school districts in fiscal year (FY) 2013 to remedy the funding deficit disbursements of \$37.4 million repealed by Propositions 1, 2 and 3.

Option 3 would involve legislative action to redirect the \$30.6 million for purposes other than public schools. This option would require a two-thirds majority vote by the Joint Finance And Appropriations Committee (JFAC) to reopen the FY 2013 public schools budget. However, **Mr. Headlee** cautioned that the \$30.6 million are one-time dollars and represent a savings in the public schools budget. If they are used for an ongoing budget item, then those dollars will need to be found again in the future.

Questions from **Chairman Goedde**, **Vice Chairman Mortimer** and **Senators Nonini** and **Patrick** flushed out specific details on various numbers in these three options. **Chairman Goedde** noted that government accounting can be deceiving. **Mr. John Hancock** will also present with a slightly different interpretation.

**PASSED THE  
GAVEL:**

**Chairman Goedde** passed the gavel to **Vice Chairman Mortimer** for continuation of rules review.

**DOCKET NO.  
47-0202-1202**

**Tracie L. Bent**, State Board of Education, presented Docket No. 47-0202-1202 Rules of the Idaho Division of Vocational Rehabilitation, which clarifies mediation and formal hearing processes, and also incorporates by reference the Division's Field Service Manual. **Ms. Bent** stated that the changes generally concern due process. Some changes simply redefine a designation, such as "client" to "customer", "informal hearing" to "informal review" and are incorporated throughout the rule for consistency. This rule also clarifies the appeals process, the time line involved, and the right to representation. After a detailed review of various subsections, **Vice Chairman Mortimer** stated that the committee would not take a voice vote today, as he wishes to review the manual which can be found online.

**PASSED THE  
GAVEL:**

Having completed rules review for the day, **Vice Chairman Mortimer** passed the gavel to **Chairman Goedde**.

**ADJOURNED:**

There being no further business before the committee, **Chairman Goedde** adjourned the meeting at 4:34 p.m., until Thursday, January 17, 2013 at 3:00 p.m.

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Senator Goedde  
Chairman

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Elaine Leedy  
Secretary