

MINUTES  
**SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE**

- DATE:** Tuesday, January 22, 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** called the meeting to order at 03:02 p.m., and a silent roll was taken.
- Chairman Goedde** explained that the community college presentation would take place as a forum, with all three presenters communicating with the committee, and the committee asking questions as necessary. **Chairman Goedde** introduced **Dr. Gerald Beck**, President of the College of Southern Idaho (CSI), **Dr. Bert Glandon**, President of the College of Western Idaho (CWI), and **Dr. Joe Dunlap**, President of North Idaho College (NIC).
- PRESENTATION:** **Presidents Beck, Glandon, and Dunlap** began by discussing various facts and figures for their institutions, noting that all had experienced a great deal of growth in the past few years. All felt growth may slow as the economy rebounds, causing some to choose work over education. All three gentlemen stated that the goal of the schools was to expand the number of people trained to work in today's economy and suggested that some changes in funding were needed to reflect those economic changes. Each president explained that costs varied at their respective institutions due to costs incurred by the facilities, but noted that technical outreach programs were very expensive, significantly more so than general education. Balanced budgets have been difficult to maintain but were becoming less restrictive. The amount paid by students has increased as state funding has decreased. Furthermore, finances change yearly to adapt to local and national changes. Even though the amount charged to students has risen, it was stressed that demand for education was greater than each school could afford.
- President Beck** focused on the new enterprises in Twin Falls, such as Chobani, and the desire of CSI to ensure that these businesses have the staff needed to ensure efficient operations. He further explained that the federal government gives most schools a great deal of flexibility when choosing which programs to fund, as long as those programs are below Bachelors degree levels and lead to employment. Although federal funds are received, this amounts to only 14 per cent of the total budget, and does not cover all that it is needed, causing schools to subsidize their own programs. He also noted that statistics were misleading since the goal of community colleges is to employ people, even if they do not graduate with degrees or stay for multiple years. Those most likely to stay and obtain degrees were students taking dual credit courses before college.

The funding for technical programs is difficult to procure, yet those funds are needed. Nonetheless, community colleges have continued to expand their technical education programs. There was agreement among all presenters that articulation and transfer of credits from their colleges to the state universities is currently good, but could be improved. This improvement would require university assistance to ensure credits matched university course requirements. **President Beck** encouraged the Education Committee to emphasize to state universities the importance of producing uniform standards.

**President Glandon** shared that CWI has one division committed solely to forming relationships between businesses in Idaho and the college. He noted that CSI and NIC have similar programs. These divisions ensure that education matches what businesses need. However, many workforce decisions concerning employment are made by businesses outside of the state, making it difficult for community colleges to respond; however, they do try to respond quickly.

**President Dunlap** detailed the operations of NIC, noting that it was the oldest school in the State and consequently is limited in its operations. Three newer outreach facilities help mitigate the limits imposed by NIC's smaller, aging facilities, thereby enabling outreach to rural students. These outreach facilities cost more to maintain. The technical programs taught there receive funding through property taxes and liquor sales, based solely on the location of the main campus, which causes disproportionate strain on that county to also serve surrounding counties who pay no portion of funding. The solution may be a difficult one. Other states charge more for technical programs than general education programs in an effort to solve the imbalance. Idaho does not currently charge differential rates and could consider this solution.

**ADJOURNED:** Having no further business before the committee, **Chairman Goedde** adjourned the meeting at 4:20 p.m., until Wednesday, January 23, 2013 at 3:00 p.m.

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Senator Goedde  
Chairman

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Elaine Leedy  
Secretary