

MINUTES
SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

DATE: Wednesday, January 23, 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 Education Committee at 3:09 p.m., and a silent roll was taken. He announced that the committee would hear presentations from three of Idaho's four-year institutions.

PRESENTATION: **Dr. Arthur Vailas**, President of Idaho State University (ISU), began with a brief overview. ISU is a comprehensive research university, which holds a national rating of "Research High." In the last academic year, they enrolled 19,288 students which represented a 3.5 percent increase over the previous year, and served a wide variety of locations throughout the state. Thirty-eight to 40 percent of all degrees awarded are in the health professions. ISU also boasts residency programs in both family practice and dentistry. ISU works closely with high schools, citing examples of students who simultaneously graduated high school and received an associate degree. The faculty in high schools who teach dual degree students also are affiliate faculty at the university.

ISU offers several unique programs which require sophisticated resources. ISU has requested funds from the legislature and the governor to provide an integrated facility for anatomy and physiology which can be utilized by other state agencies, such as the fire department, state police, emergency workers and others, thus providing a cost saving for services normally sought elsewhere.

Senator Thayn asked clarifying questions about the percentage of degrees in the medical area. **President Vailas** stated that ISU's medical degrees comprise about half of all undergraduate, graduate and professional-technical degrees. **Senator Thayn** also asked about dual enrollment and whether teachers earn extra money for teaching at both the high school and college level. **President Vailas** replied that teachers receive a stipend, but, more importantly, the dual education program identifies teachers with whom the college administrators and faculty are comfortable. This results in instructional alignment so that college is not "a surprise" to graduating high school seniors. **President Vailas** also believes the program aids in the recruitment and retention of teachers.

Vice Chairman Mortimer asked President Vailas about the percentage of online instruction at ISU. **President Vailas** replied that a few years ago, the percentage was about eight percent. Today, that percentage has grown to about 30 percent. This growth has led to an online experience requirement for all new faculty hires. **Vice Chairman Mortimer** asked if Professional Technical Education (PTE) courses cost the same as academic courses and **President Vailas** replied affirmatively. **Vice President Mortimer** asked about expenditures for deferred maintenance in the past four years. **President Valais** agreed to provide that information and added that ISU one of the few who is reducing its debt and has made significant reductions. **Chairman Goedde** asked what percentage of incoming freshmen need remediation. **President Vailas** replied that approximately 40 percent of students need remedial education, and felt it was a "real problem." **Chairman Goedde** thanked President Vailas, and introduced the next speaker.

PRESENTATION: **Dr. Duane Nellis**, President of the University of Idaho (UI), opened his remarks by stating that UI is nationally recognized as a research facility and delivers one of the best educational opportunities in the Pacific Northwest. UI is the state's first university, created in 1889. Today UI serves 13,000 students. One-third of the freshmen are the first in their family to attend college which is very important in meeting the state's goal of 60 percent of Idahoans between ages 25-34 being college-educated by 2020. UI boasts 70 locations around the state, including research centers, extension offices, campus centers in Moscow, Coeur d'Alene, Boise and Idaho Falls. Over 500,000 people per year are directly impacted by UI and its programs. UI encompasses nine colleges in the areas of business, economics, engineering, education, law, veterinary medicine, agricultural, architecture, and others, which have won numerous national awards and produced many national leaders. UI participates in the WWAMI (Washington, Wyoming, Alaska, Montana, Idaho) medical training program, providing first year training to twenty students per year. **Dr. Nellis** provided several samples of innovative research products that have recently been produced at UI. In sum, UI has been ranked among the top 33 universities in the nation; Princeton Review ranks UI in the top 15 percent of over 4,000 universities. **Dr. Nellis** stressed the importance of increasing employee compensation in order to retain its outstanding faculty who are constantly recruited by other states. In addition, **Dr. Nellis** seeks support for the College of Law to bring second year students to Boise, as well as support for the Rangeland Center and an integrated research facility.

Senator Pearce referenced an article that criticized UI for doubling in the size of its law school in Boise when graduating students are not finding work Idaho, and he asked Dr. Nellis for comment. **Dr. Nellis** replied that applications for law school have decreased, and the economy has hurt the traditional placement of lawyers. However, he stressed that one-third of law school graduates obtain jobs in business. He feels that Idaho needs the presence of legal education in the Treasure Valley, and in the state's Capitol to help business and public law.

Vice Chairman Mortimer asked Dr. Nellis for UI's four-year expenditure in deferred maintenance, and **Dr. Nellis** replied that \$8 million was the current figure. He stated that UI is emphasizing online courses and would supply data at a later time. **Chairman Goedde** asked about the percentage of incoming students needing remediation. **Dr. Nellis** replied that UI's students generally come well prepared, and remediation numbers are small. **Dr. Nellis** also emphasized UI's commitment to professional development and certification.

Dr. Nellis closed by restating his passion for UI and the contributions made to Idaho, and to higher education. **Chairman Goedde** thanked Dr. Nellis and introduced the next speaker.

PRESENTATION: Dr. Tony Fernandez, President of Lewis-Clark State College (LCSC), introduced LCSC with a bit of history: LCSC is the second oldest public supported institution in Idaho, founded in 1893. LCSC is a four-year institution with an embedded community college function, similar to ISU. The majority of LCSC's students earn bachelor's degrees. **Dr. Fernandez** stated that LCSC's primary areas of emphasis are arts and sciences, business, justice studies, nursing, professional technical, social work and teacher education. LCSC serves almost every county in the state, and enrolls approximately 6,000 students including both academic and PTE studies. Additionally, approximately 1,500 high school students take college courses through the dual enrollment program. The vast majority of LCSC's 90,000 student credit hours per year are taught by full-time faculty. Full-time faculty members have increased the number of credit hours they are teaching, while temporary (adjunct) faculty hours have declined.

Students come to LCSC with an average 3.0 grade point average, but nearly fifty percent of students need remediation in math and/or English. LCSC offers all of its students central advising with required academic career planning, free tutoring, and training in basic computer/web skills. As a result, LCSC students exceed the national average in many areas of testing. In addition, 90 percent of students are placed in jobs or continuing education. **Dr. Fernandez** spoke with pride about the service to the community provided by LCSC students and athletes.

Approximately seven percent of courses are offered online. An additional percentage is a hybrid mix of online and some face-to-face instruction, bring the total to approximately 14 percent. **Dr. Fernandez** detailed budget figures and staff compensation, and the impact of funding on faculty retention. Legislative requests include increased funds for employee salaries, enrollment workload adjustment, inflation, and capital equipment replacement. In summary, **Dr. Fernandez** restated LCSC's commitment to higher education in Idaho.

Senator Buckner-Webb asked how comparative faculty compensation rates affect faculty retention. **Dr. Fernandez** stated that faculty retention is quite high, with a 6 to 7 percent turnover. The faculty is very loyal, but both faculty and staff, especially Information Technology, are lost to competitors every year. Excellent candidates from Oregon, Washington and other states across the nation interview each year, want to teach at LCS, but simply cannot afford to do so because of salary restraints. **Chairman Goedde** asked for more information about remediation of students who are not fully prepared. **Dr. Fernandez** outlined various philosophies, but felt that the best approach is to immerse students in a college level course and aggressively provide tutors and labs. He stated that this method has proven effective. LCSC's faculty is exploring additional avenues, such as strengthening its relationships with high school teachers to better prepare math and science students for college. **Vice Chairman Mortimer** asked for the deferred maintenance figure for LCSC, and **Dr. Fernandez** replied that it is approximately \$1 million per year, with a backlog of \$25 million.

ADJOURNED: Having no further business before the committee, **Chairman Goedde** adjourned the meeting at 4:46 p.m.

Senator Goedde
Chairman

Elaine Leedy
Secretary