

MINUTES
SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

DATE: Monday, January 20, 2014

TIME: 3:00 P.M.

PLACE: Room WW55

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chairman Goedde, Vice Chairman Mortimer, Senators Pearce, Fulcher, Nonini, Thayn, Patrick, and Ward-Engelking

ABSENT/ EXCUSED: Senator Buckner-Webb

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 Senate Education Committee (Committee) to order at 3:02 p.m., and a silent roll was taken.

Chairman Goedde introduced the presidents of Idaho's community colleges: Dr. Bert Glandon, President, College of Western Idaho (CWI); Dr. Jeff Fox, President College of Southern Idaho (CSI); and Dr. Joe Dunlap, President, North Idaho College (NIC); and acknowledged the staff and trustees who were present to support them.

PANEL DISCUSSION: **President Glandon** explained that CWI, CSI and NIC are three community colleges which truly work in collaboration with each other. **President Glandon** expressed great appreciation for his colleagues and the manner in which they have worked as a team over the past few years. The three colleges share common priorities of (1) college and career readiness/workforce preparation in order to reach the sixty percent degree certification by the year 2020; (2) dual credit courses, which provide opportunities for Idaho high school students to more effectively enroll in dual credit, not only online, but throughout the various community colleges in the state; and (3) Voluntary Framework of Accountability (VFA), a set of metrics that comes from the national level which the three colleges incorporate to more accurately measure their success in serving students and the community.

President Glandon said that CWI's legislative priorities for fiscal year 2015 are assistance with occupancy costs for the Micron Center which was recently gifted to the college, the VFA, and moving the nursing staff from the professional-technical framework to the academic framework so nursing students obtain a nursing degree at the university level. Currently one-third of CWI's programs now are online, and CWI needs to provide a virtual one-stop student services program to assist those students as well as traditional students.

Dr. Joe Dunlap said that NIC has been in existence for eighty years. The priorities for NIC include out of district funding, distance education, and career/technical education funding. Because NIC is the only single county district in Idaho, Kootenai County taxpayers and NIC face unique challenges. Increases in dual credit and other educational opportunities for rural Idahoans are placing a burden on available county liquor funds. NIC supports a revision of the 1982 out-of-district student tuition payment code and commits to working with all stakeholders to find an equitable solution which includes traditional, technical and dual credit students. Career and Technical Education (CTE) students are exempted from out-of-county fees. North Idaho's topography often makes traveling to and from NIC's campus challenging for many students. NIC must increase its efforts in offering courses and training opportunities through distance education. CTE funding is crucial to sustain and grow North Idaho's workforce and economy. NIC supports a review and revision of the current CTE funding formula and additional support for career and technical education programs in Idaho.

Dr. Jeff Fox stated that in addition to the joint priorities of college/career readiness and dual credit, CSI is also looking for occupancy costs for the new Advanced Technology and Innovation Center which will house several professional and technical education programs (PTE), among which is the new food science program which was created in response to many Magic Valley businesses and industries who need upgraded knowledge and skills in dairy and food production. CSI would also like legislative funding support for the VFA. CSI has been working in collaboration with the Eastern Idaho Technical College and has been offering classes on their campus which provides students with the opportunity for lower division transfer courses. CSI is focusing on the sixty percent graduation goal through counseling and face-to-face interaction with students. CSI has been very active in the Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) movement and have been partnering with public schools to bring STEM education to the Magic Valley in a meaningful and consistent way.

Vice Chairman Mortimer asked the panel to comment on alignment of courses in general education requirements, both at the community and higher education levels, with common course numbers and content. **Dr. Fox** said that the various discipline chairs at all of Idaho's public institutions have met annually to ensure that English 101 is the same everywhere. More recently, discussions have been underway to discuss proficiencies in six major disciplines, to agree upon competencies expected, and to move toward reformation and clarification of general education requirements. Within Idaho, credits transfer well, and the Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education is working toward interstate alignment. Both **Dr. Glandon** and **Dr. Dunlap** agreed that legislating alignment is not the answer – it needs to happen on the department level.

Chairman Goedde asked the panel to comment on their remote locations and the percentage of students who come from outside their tax-paying districts. All of the community colleges have remote locations which serve a small percentage of their total enrollment. None of the remote locations are self-sustaining, but the panel considers the outreach programs to be a necessary service to their communities.

Senator Thayn asked how dual credit courses were affecting state liquor funding for education. **President Glandon** stated that it is very complex, but with nearly six thousand dual credit students, dual credit courses have severely affected two or three counties. He suggested that a task force may be needed to work through the problem, since CWI is growing and dual credit will continue to impose a financial strain.

Senator Fulcher asked the panel how course offerings were responding to local business needs. **President Dunlap** articulated several programs that have been developed through Department of Labor grants in the areas of aerospace, forestry, and the medical assistant fields. **President Fox** said that CSI has applied federal grants in the dairy industry which is now a very high-tech industry. Business say they also need the soft skills of loyalty, integrity and pride of work. CSI has put human relations course work in place to address these ethical concerns. **President Fox** stressed the need to remain innovative and responsive. **President Glandon** enumerated CWI's active involvement in economic and workforce development. The Micron Center, which was gifted to CWI, is being used for large corporate regional training, such as Western Caterpillar. Some automobile manufacturers are also considering CWI's Micron Center for regional training. Both St. Alphonsus and St. Lukes Medical Centers have training programs at CWI.

Vice Chairman Mortimer noted that PTE enrollment seems relatively flat, and asked how to increase it. **President Dunlap** replied that NIC's facilities are old and outdated, often with space for only twelve students per class, where they need space for twenty-four. NIC needs a new PTE center, but funding is the problem. **President Fox** agreed that PTE funding has been small, and allocation of those funds needs to be managed in accordance with community needs. Their construction training facility was closed because no jobs were available. **President Glandon** stated that PTE is cost intensive to set up and operate. CWI is working to make the academic portions available online. He said that numerous skilled jobs exist and a cultural shift is needed in the way families and society value those trades. The panel all agreed that funding sources were the greatest issue.

Senator Pearce asked what can be done to stimulate jobs in Idaho. **President Fox** replied that the community colleges need to be "nimble" to address whatever is coming, and to be responsive and supportive in their business relationships. **President Dunlap** said it would be useful for community college leaders to be at the table with business leaders who are thinking of locating in Idaho, and felt that community colleges could be very helpful in recruiting new business by partnering workforce needs and availability. **President Glandon** agreed that community colleges are more able to build a base of entry level positions; the right connection could create new industry from the ground up. **Senator Pearce** said that it is an interesting twist in time that law school students are now returning to community colleges for professional technical training. **President Fox** stressed the need for continuing focus on partnerships with business and industry and partnerships with universities.

ADJOURNED: **Chairman Goedde** thanked the panel for their participation. Having no further business before the Committee, **Chairman Goedde** adjourned the meeting at 4:17 p.m.

Senator Goedde
Chair

Elaine Leedy
Secretary