

MINUTES
HOUSE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

DATE: Tuesday, February 11, 2014

TIME: 9:00 A.M.

PLACE: Room EW41

MEMBERS: Chairman DeMordaunt, Vice Chairman Nielsen, Representative(s) Shepherd, Wills, Bateman, Boyle, Clow, Gestrin, Harris, Horman, Mendive, VanOrden, McDonald, Pence, Kloc, Rubel

**ABSENT/
EXCUSED:** None

GUESTS: Greg Hahn, Boise State; Matt Compton and Robin Nettinga, IEA; Kristyn Kirschenman, Risch-Pisca; Phil Homer, IASA; Harold Ott, Rural Schools; Marilyn Whitney, SBOE

Chairman DeMordaunt called the meeting to order at 9:02 a.m.

MOTION: **Rep. Mendive** made a motion to approve the minutes of the February 5, 2014 meeting. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

RS 22644C1: **Rep. Packer** explained **RS 22644C1** makes changes and further clarifies the intent of Idaho Code, Section 33-3720 relating to Idaho Professional Studies Programs. She said the state spends \$9,064,500 for the program which speaks to the need for additional transparency in the management of these programs and in the distribution of the funds. She indicated the current statute already outlines the programs to be managed as loan agreements and the State Board of Education (SBOE) may decrease, delay or forgive those loans for recipients who come back to practice in Idaho. Rep. Packer said the proposed legislation will further define the loan parameters, and will emphasize repayment of the loan is required, unless the loan is forgiven. She outlined the time provisions for proper payback and the terms to qualify for decrease, delay, or forgiveness of the Idaho Professional Studies Loan.

A discussion was held concerning **RS 22644C1**. **Rep. Packer** said other participating states were more strict than Idaho in their loan repayment requirements. She said SBOE management of the statute has made it more like a grant than a loan agreement. She indicated doctors within Idaho who were not advantaged by the WAMMI and the WICHI programs agree that the statute should be administered more stringently.

MOTION: **Rep. Nielsen** made a motion to introduce **RS 22644C1**. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

RS 22834: **Jessica Harrison**, Policy and Government Affairs Coordinator, Idaho School Boards Association explained **RS 22834** would revise Idaho Code, Section 33-0517 provisions relating to grievance procedures for non certificated employees. She said the proposed legislation would strike the words "unfair treatment." Instead, it would add a list of valid grievance issues. It would also make other technical corrections.

In response to questions from the committee, **Ms. Harrison** said the proposed legislation would only affect non-certificated employee. She said the new statute should be reflected in a school district's policy handbook. She indicated the employees are already protected through federal laws against discrimination and harassment. She pointed to a case where a non-certificated employee filed a frivolous charge against a school district. Ms. Harrison also indicated even a frivolous charge may cost the district thousands of dollars. In response to questions relating to local control versus more centralized control by the state, she said the statute takes over when local policy is nonexistent.

MOTION: **Rep. VanOrden** made a motion to introduce **RS 22834**.

SUBSTITUTE MOTION: **Rep. Harris** made a substitute motion to return **RS 22834** to sponsor in order to review the poor wording which makes the grievance process more circular than it needs to be.

Rep. Shepherd argued in favor of the motion saying all stakeholders had worked to bring **RS 22834** to the committee and it resolves the districts' issues. **Ms. Harrison** said the wording could be reviewed.

MOTION WITHDRAWN: **Rep. Harris** withdrew the substitute motion.

MOTION: **Rep. Wills** called for the question. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

VOTE ON MOTION: **Chairman DeMordaunt** called for a vote on the motion to introduce **RS 22834**. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

Dr. Bob Kustra, President, Boise State University (BSU) presented before the committee. He said BSU is uniquely situated in the Treasure Valley where 40 percent of Idaho's population live and where 40 percent of Idaho's personal income is derived. He said ensuring BSU is contributing to the economic engine in the Treasure Valley is key, not only to the future of Boise State, but also to the future of Idaho's economy. He indicated that BSU's new programming and graduate output align well with the anticipated economic needs as put forth by the Idaho Department of Labor and their "Hot Jobs" list for the decade. Dr. Kustra said to meet industry and student demands, BSU has grown in size and in number of innovative, high-tech offerings.

Dr. Kustra described the new degrees added and those planned in the near future. He also explained the Foundational Studies Program which has replaced "general studies." Foundational Studies incorporates more critical thinking, problem solving, innovation and teamwork. The program also includes discussions on ethics and diversity. Dr. Kustra described E-Portfolios, BSU's more active career center, and the Venture College, where more than 200 local leaders mentor and assist students in starting businesses. He told the committee that although they had been instrumental in giving universities sole, independent discretion over purchases not relating to statewide contracts, there were efficiencies to be gained by removing multiple layers of oversight that exist in today's business model for Boise State and others. He asked the committee to continue to remove unneeded additional layers of review and approval from institutions of higher education in Idaho. He also asked for more equitable compensation for instructional faculty members.

Responding to questions from the committee, **Dr. Kustra** said BSU receives constant requests asking for students who can "operate outside the manual," and who are not separated from moral and ethical standards. He said the need for remediation has gone down significantly because BSU has raised its admission standards. Community colleges are currently serving the larger percentage of students needing remediation. To further questions, Dr. Kustra said BSU graduates from 45-50 computer science students per year. He said some computer science students, if they are able to write code, get jobs prior to graduating.

Dr. Kustra addressed the rising costs of higher education in addition to marketing and communications at BSU. He said student debt is critical and BSU has launched several campaigns for scholarship and donor contributions. He indicated that Idaho's costs rank 13th out of the 15 western states in expenditures for higher education. He said online education and concurrent classes for high school have assisted in lowering higher education expense. Dr. Kustra explained the growth at BSU since the winning of the Fiesta Bowl in 2007. He said the success and popularity of the football team has been used to drive other dimensions of education at BSU. He said BSU continues to follow the directive from the State Board of Education in producing well-rounded students.

ADJOURN: There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting adjourned at 10:22 a.m.

Representative DeMordaunt
Chair

Jean Vance
Secretary