

MINUTES
SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

DATE: Monday, January 26, 2015

TIME: 3:00 P.M.

PLACE: Room WW55

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chairman Mortimer, Vice Chairman Thayn, Senators Keough, Nonini, Souza, Den Hartog, Buckner-Webb and Ward-Engelking

ABSENT/ EXCUSED: Senator Patrick

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 Mortimer** called the Committee meeting to order at 3:00 p.m. He welcomed everyone and announced that it is Education Week at the Capitol.

PRESENTATION: **Chuck Staben**, President, University of Idaho (UI) presented to the Committee the activities of the University on campus, in the community, and around the state. He introduced Katherine G. Aiken, Interim Provost and Executive Vice President, UI . **President Staben** spoke about the excellence of the University and how it is meeting the needs of the State both in education and in research. He highlighted many of the UI's accomplishments locally and nationally. He noted the work they are doing with the State's community colleges in helping students move seamlessly into the institution. **President Staben** pointed out the "Inspiring Futures Campaign" raised more than its goal, which speaks to the confidence that alumni have in the UI. He concluded by thanking the Legislature for the funding especially for the proposed salary increases (see the attachment 1).

Senator Thayn asked about the Governor recommendation for funding of the dual credit programs. **President Staben** replied this request was in the Complete College Idaho section of the budget as a line item. The UI will continue to work on enhancing dual credit opportunities for students.

Vice Chairman Thayn asked if there were new programs to be developed, or was the UI just in the conception stages. **President Staben** called on the UI Provost to answer that question. **Katherine G. Aiken**, explained that the request was for an expansion of dual credit programs the UI already offers. They were also hoping to expand the number of partnering high schools.

Vice Chairman Thayn wanted to know why UI funding for counseling was much higher. **President Staben** explained the higher institutions have a greater counselor to student ratio.

PRESENTATION: **Chairman Mortimer** welcomed Idaho's three community college presidents to the committee to present together the endeavors of each community college.

Dr. Joe Dunlap, President, North Idaho College (NI), presented Idaho Community Colleges Working Together. He spoke to the shared focus of the colleges and detailed mission statement of each. He addressed the funding issues and concluded highlighting the variety of challenges the colleges encounter (see attachment 2).

Dr. Jeff Fox, President, College of Southern Idaho (CSI), stated they are celebrating 50 years of operation. He noted education is always changing and CSI is responsive to those changes. He detailed the counseling programs to get more at risk students enrolled. **Dr. Fox** described the higher enrollment of the professional-technical process for the college.

Dr. Bert Glandon, President, College of Western Idaho (CWI), presented the work of CWI. He echoed the course and goals of the community colleges and CWI is in line with the community college plan. He stated remediation is the number one issue that keeps students from continuing college so all the community colleges are working to find solutions. Each school is working aggressively to help students be successful and is doing it as quickly as possible.

Dr. Joe Dunlap, presented the work of NIC. He again echoed that all the community colleges in Idaho are working on the same model. He highlighted one of NIC's pilot projects called the Village Project.

Chairman Mortimer thanked all three of the college presidents and then opened for questions.

Senator Souza thanked all for the very interesting presentations. She asked what percentage of students who enter their institutions will finish with either a degree or certificate. Each President told the success rates. They emphasized that the community college student comes to them with different needs and concerns than the traditional university student.

Vice Chairman Thayn asked someone to address the stackable programs. He wondered how they interface with the secondary schools. **Dr. Dunlap** said there are a number of different interfaces with the secondary schools. He explained the partnership with the Albertson's Foundation for the P-Tech program. He also outlined K-Tech, a career and technical high school. **Dr. Dunlap** stated the NIC board is committed to the program and will be building a site next to NIC for the program to be open in the fall of 2016

Vice Chairman Thayn asked two questions (1) how is the fast forward program making the payments work; and (2) are the dual credit classes helping high school students as they get to college. Each President outlined their schools programs highlighting that the colleges are working hard to make all types of credits transferable.

Senator Nonini asked if there is a specific student demographics of the remedial courses. **Dr. Fox** stated remediation is not broken out by age. Remediation is 61 percent of the incoming students. The colleges have redesigned the courses and have found these new courses keep remedial students engaged.

Chairman Mortimer asked the Presidents to give a quick summary of their enrollment, what has been done, and what will be done in the future.

Dr. Dunlap stated in regard to enrollment, during the recession NIC's increased by 47 percent. For 2014 the enrollment declined. NIC planned for that and it is reflected in the budget. In spite of the decline, NIC is seeing growth through dual credit and distance learning; that segment will continue to grow. **Dr. Fox** said CSI's enrollment figure is 6,100 and full time enrollment is 4,830. This is a decline from the previous year. The increase of dual credit is 20 percent of the makeup of the student population. **Dr. Glandon** was pleased to announce that after five years CWI has started to normalize after five years of incredible growth.

Chairman Mortimer stated the reduced enrollment has an impact on the schools. He asked them to share what each was doing to get more people into their programs. Each President said personal relationship building is what works the best to ensure enrollment. They all use social media and school career counseling.

Chairman Mortimer thanked them each for the presentation.

PASSED THE GAVEL:

Chairman Mortimer passed the gavel to Vice Chairman Thayn.

DOCKET NO. 08-0203-1402:

Vice Chairman Thayn stated the State Department of Education is here to present **Docket No 08-0203-1402** with regards to the Section 03.b.i. He said there may be possible legislation coming up that may allow parents to have their students opt out of the Smarter Balance Assessment Consortium (SBAC). Information has been collected about the star ratings.

Senator Nonini asked if someone from State Department of Education could address the situation of Madison School District opting out of SBAC. How would that play into the rule adoption.

Dr. Christina Nava, State Department of Education (SDE), stated as far as the 95 percent rule of opting out of SBAC, she is not at liberty to discuss. It is not under her preview. She is the State LEP Director and will only answer questions regarding that program.

Senator Nonini replied he would like to hear how that question can be answered. He requested someone from the department come to the meeting to answer the questions.

Senator Ward-Engleking asked if there was any consideration to the possibility of using raw scores instead of percentages. She stated that raw scores are not always an indicator of actual growth. **Dr Nava** responded absolutely correct. She is attempting to work on this rule for next year.

Senator Ward-Engleking stated the rule seems to not take into account the student that is only in the district for part of the year. She wanted to know if this data could be put into cohorts. Currently, the data looks skewed. **Dr. Nava** said another excellent point. She appreciated the Senator's being aware of this population's unstableness

MOTION:

Senator Souza moved to remove Section 112.01.b.i from **Docket No. 08-0203-1402**. **Senator Nonini** seconded the motion. Discussion ensued regarding administrative rulemaking.

Vice Chairman Thayn reiterated Mr. Hunt's comment that the Committee can revisit the docket, but today should act on the rule as it is now. The Committee can come back and address the other concern. He believed that both corrections could be done at the same time.

SUBSTITUTE MOTION:

Senator Keough moved that **Docket No. 08-0203-1402** be adopted. **Senator Buckner-Webb** seconded the motion.

Chairman Mortimer stated there is too much confusion and would like to hold the rule until some questions can be answered.

MOTION WITHDRAWAL:

The motion makers all agreed to withdraw the motions.

MOTION:

Chairman Mortimer moved to hold **Docket No. 08-0203-1402** for time certain. **Senator Nonini** seconded the motion. The motion carried by **voice vote**.

**PASSED THE
GAVEL:**

Vice Chairman Thayn returned the gavel to Chairman Mortimer.

ADJOURNED:

There being no further business **Chairman Mortimer** adjourned the meeting at 4:36 p.m.

Senator Mortimer
Chair

LeAnn South
Secretary