

MINUTES  
**SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE**

**DATE:** Thursday, February 04, 2016

**TIME:** 3:00 P.M.

**PLACE:** Room WW55

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Chairman Mortimer, Vice Chairman Thayn, Senators Patrick, Souza, Den Hartog, Anthon, Buckner-Webb, and Ward-Engelking

**ABSENT/ EXCUSED:** Senator Nonini

**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 Education Committee (Committee) to order at 3:00 p.m.

**MINUTES APPROVAL:** **Senator Buckner-Webb** moved to approve the Minutes from January 19, 2016. **Senator Den Hartog** seconded the motion. The motion passed by **voice vote**.

**MINUTES APPROVAL:** **Senator Den Hartog** moved to approve the Minutes from January 21, 2016. **Senator Buckner-Webb** seconded the motion. The motion passed by **voice vote**.

**PRESENTATION:** **Dr. Mary Barinaga**, Assistant Dean, Regional Affairs, Idaho WWAMI (Washington, Wyoming, Alaska, Montana and Idaho) Medical Education Program, University of Washington School of Medicine, presented the WWAMI update. She explained the pipeline for students to become a practicing physician through the program. She reported the retention rate for Idaho graduates and for those returning to practice in the Northwest. She stated the medical training is ranked number one for primary care, family medicine and rural medicine. **Dr. Barinaga** said Idaho's cost per student is substantially lower than that of similar size states. She outlined the curriculum phases and the specialties of those graduating from the program. She thanked the Legislature for the increase in seats to 40 from the original 15 in 1972. She explained the programs known as TRUST (Targeted Rural Underserved Track) and RPIP (Rural Physician Incentive Program), explaining how they help rural areas as well as beginning physicians (see attachment 1).

**Vice Chairman Thayn** asked if there are more ways to streamline medical education to get the physicians working sooner. **Dr. Barinaga** replied in the affirmative and stated there are programs across the country that are doing that. **Vice Chairman Thayn** asked how those programs work. **Dr. Barinaga** stated that the residence training is combined with the medical school. She stated she would get more information to the Senator.

**Senator Patrick** asked what percentage of physicians return to the state in which they attend in a brick mortar school. **Dr. Barinaga** replied that nationally, for public medical schools the return is 41 percent.

**Senator Souza** asked if the specialty the physician goes into have any impact on them returning to Idaho. **Dr. Barinaga** explained the state loses many physicians either because they chose to stay where they trained or the specialty they have chosen requires needs a large community base in order to make a living.

**Chairman Mortimer** stated that he has had many people contact him regarding the difficulty to prove prior residency when applying to the WWAMI program. He asked how the admission process could be easier for high-caliber Idaho students. **Dr. Barinaga** said residency is determined by current Idaho statute. **Chairman Mortimer** asked what changes she would recommend to the statute. **Dr. Barinaga** said one of the complaints she often gets is from the nontraditional student who is not relying on their parents. They lose their in-state status as they work out-of-state trying to make a living while attending school. She would loosen up that specification.

**Chairman Mortimer** asked for more details regarding who establishes the admission qualifications. **Dr. Barinaga** referred the question to Matt Freeman, Executive Director, State Board of Education (SBE). **Mr. Freeman** stated the residency determination is made through the University of Idaho and Idaho State University staff.

**Chairman Mortimer** asked if those students, who have received financial help from the state and have chose not to practice in the state, should be required to pay back 50 percent of their aid. **Dr. Barinaga** replied the students still pay tuition and as long as they are paying she does not believe there should be a mandatory payback. If there was some type of scholarship that paid for medical school, then those who didn't practice in Idaho should pay their funding back.

**PRESENTATION:** **Mr. Freeman**, Executive Director, SBE, introduced his staff, Blake Youde and Tracie Bent, and thanked them for their hard work. He gave a brief overview of the members of the SBE stating that they are a diverse group with love for education. He explained the organizational chart and stated that Idaho and Rhode Island have similar governance of education. **Mr. Freeman** said that he is concerned with the low wages and its affect on the recruitment and retention of employees.

**Mr. Freeman** explained the Governor's goal to have 60 percent of Idaho citizens ages 25-34 have a postsecondary certificate or degree by 2020 is not the same as the "Go-On" rate. He emphasized that it is a stubborn needle to move. He gave an overview of the methodology required by the federal government in reporting graduation rates, which showed that Idaho's rates in 2014 were lower than 2013. He emphasized that there are not comparable since they were based on different reporting mechanisms.

**Mr. Freeman** outlined for the Committee several programs and strategies that are being discussed to increase the "Go-On" rate." He emphasized the importance of the state's community colleges as a good option for the attainment of the 2020 goal.

**Mr. Freeman** discussed employee compensation and the need to raise salaries since Idaho is 16 percent below the market rate. He outlined the advantages and economic benefits of an advanced degree and higher education. He concluded his presentation by saying that studies show that college graduates are the first in line to get the newly added "good" jobs. Education is an economic imperative, a public good and the great equalizer (see attachment 2).

**Senator Den Hartog** asked if the tuition lock proposal is a better use of funds than scholarships. **Mr. Freeman** stated both are impactful. The tuition lock provides predictability and is available to every student. **Senator Den Hartog** asked if the universities will be able to fund this program without using General Fund money. **Mr. Freeman** replied the SBE is the one who sets tuition and fees and it will be a balancing act.

**Vice Chairman Thayn** asked what data was used to set in motion the tuition lock proposal. **Mr. Freeman** said the SBE worked with the Governor's office to develop this concept. He explained this proposal is modeled from other states, taking into account their achievements and downfalls. He explained the possible funding and use of the stabilization fund. **Mr. Freeman** stated this proposal comes from the Governor's office, and funding information should come from there.

**Senator Souza** asked if the graduation rate using the old methodology system was similar to the new system. **Mr. Freeman** said he didn't have those numbers readily available. He would provide those numbers to her.

**Senator Den Hartog** asked if there will be a proposed annual appropriation for the tuition lock. **Mr. Freeman** replied in the affirmative. He stated it is a two-prong approach and explained those details.

**Senator Den Hartog** asked if over time the graduation numbers from the old methodology system would still be available rather than only the federal required numbers. **Mr. Freeman** replied in the affirmative.

**PRESENTATION:** **Richard Westerberg**, Chairman, Task Force for Improving Education (Task Force), SBE, stated that he is a reluctant presenter. He spoke about the tremendous progress the Task Force has made since its inception. The proposals they have set forth are coming through the House and Senate education committees as legislation. He emphasized that in the development of the proposals, local control was in the forefront. **Mr. Westerberg** outlined the recommendation of the task force and detailed the 20 proposals, the implementation status and fiscal impact of each (see attachment 3).

**PASSED THE GAVEL:**

Chairman Mortimer passed the gavel to Vice Chairman Thayn.

**Senator Ward-Engelking** stated she is concerned that the recommendations from the Task Force are not be legislated as intended. **Mr. Westerberg** stated the 20 recommendations are a holistic package; to gain the full benefit all of the points are to be considered. He detailed the make-up of the Task Force and the determination process.

**Senator Souza** asked if Idaho now own the rights the State's core standards and can they be customized. **Mr. Westerberg** said while the current standards are common with other states, they are Idaho's standards, modifiable at will. He said the value of having common standards with others is that it makes comparison with other states more relevant.

**Vice Chairman Thayn** asked if there have been any road blocks to Mastery-Based Education (MBE). **Mr. Westerberg** replied in the negative. He stated that MBE is a marvelous concept and it is complex. He affirmed the work the state is acting on to implement MBE.

**Senator Den Hartog** asked if the Task Force was involved in the Governor's proposed legislation regarding Average Daily Attendance (ADA) stability and mobility. **Mr. Westerberg** stated the proposal came from a Task Force subcommittee.

**RS 24080**

**Tim Corder**, Special Assistant to the Superintendent, State Department of Education (SDE), presented **RS 24080**, Relating to Mastery-Based Education (MBE). He explained the SDE was tasked with piloting MBE with a limit of 20 programs across the State. He stated there were many applications for this program. This legislation will hold it to that number.

**MOTION:**

**Senator Souza** moved to send **RS 24080** to print. **Senator Den Hartog** seconded the motion. The motion passed by **voice vote**.

**RS24101**      **Mr. Corder** presented **RS 24101**, Relating to Leadership Premiums. He said this legislation increases the minimum amount to be paid to a person from \$850 to \$900. This will be paid by a district once eligibility is determined. He explained the criteria.

**MOTION:**      **Senator Ward-Engelking** moved to send **RS 24101** to print. **Senator Den Hartog** seconded the motion. The motion passed by **voice vote**.

**ADJOURNED:**      There being no more business, **Vice Chairman Thayn** adjourned the meeting at 4:38 p.m.

---

Senator Dean M. Mortimer  
Chair

---

LeAnn Mohr  
Secretary