

MINUTES
HOUSE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

DATE: Wednesday, January 24, 2018
TIME: 8:30 A.M.
PLACE: Room EW41
MEMBERS: Chairman VanOrden, Vice Chairman McDonald, Representatives Shepherd, Boyle, Clow, Mendive, Kerby, Cheatham, Amador, DeMordaunt, Moon, Syme, Ehardt, Kloc (Tway), McCrostie, Toone
**ABSENT/
EXCUSED:** Representative(s) Boyle, Syme, McCrostie
GUESTS: Mark Browning, College of Western Idaho; Harold Ott, Idaho Association of School Administrators and Idaho Rural School Administrators; Rob Winslow, Idaho Association of School Administrators

Vice-Chairman McDonald called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m.

Dr. Tony Fernandez, president of Lewis Clark State College (LCSC), gave a presentation on the history and goals of the college. The goal of the college is to make college affordable to students, and LCSC has the lowest tuition of Idaho's four-year universities, said Dr. Fernandez. Enrollment has increased twenty percent in the last ten years, said Dr. Fernandez. He gave the demographics of the student population, of which 76% are first-generation college students, and 81% receive financial aid. Enrollment is related to the economy, said Dr. Fernandez, with enrollment going up during the recession, and going down during a strong economy. The college's dual-credit enrollment is increasing, and 1000 students were enrolled in dual-credit classes during fiscal year 2017, he said. The graduation rate has increased three percent each year, said Dr. Fernandez, and 67% of the graduating students remain in Idaho for employment. The college partners with industries, and graduates in the health sciences programs have a 95-100% placement rate, said Dr. Fernandez.

Vice-Chairman McDonald turned the gavel over to **Chairman VanOrden**.

Dr. Fernandez explained the work scholar program at LCSC, in which students work at the college or a local industry for ten to twenty hours a week. They must have a good grade point average, qualify for financial assistance, and demonstrate the ability and desire to succeed. They are interviewed for the positions. Staff mentors the work scholars, and the work scholars receive free tuition, said Dr. Fernandez. The retention rate of work scholars is 100%. In response to questions from the committee, Dr. Fernandez said the work scholars are employees of the college or local industry. The benefit to the college is the students participate in work related to the careers they desire.

In response to questions from the committee, **Dr. Fernandez** said it has become more difficult to recruit post-secondary students to a teaching career. LCSC gives students experiences in the classroom to help them know if it's the right career for them. He said everybody needs to let students know teaching is a rewarding profession.

Dr. Arthur Vailas, president of Idaho State University (ISU), gave an overview of the growth and goals of Idaho State University (ISU). He said ISU serves a variety of regions, and the career-technical education is important at the undergraduate level, graduate level, and post-graduate level. Dr. Vailas said the best way to look at education is as an integrated and consolidated system designed to produce a skilled, flexible workforce. One of the goals, he said, is innovation which takes into account the future Idaho wants and how to get there. Dr. Vailas gave an example of bio-manufacturing, which is an industry worth trillions of dollars globally. Dr. Vailas said twenty-five percent of ISU's resources come from the state, including tuition appropriations. Seventy-five percent of the resources come from clients, including students, business partners, and philanthropy.

One of the goals of Idaho State University, said **Dr. Vailas**, is to increase access to post-secondary education. ISU is accomplishing this by providing a flexible curriculum in the form of online classes, dual-enrollment classes, and classes to accommodate students' schedules. After discounts, said Dr. Vailas, ISU tuition is less than the tuition at state community colleges. ISU is providing an infrastructure for students with the goal of aiding Idaho's economic future, he added.

In response to questions from the committee, **Dr. Vailas** said he believes there are three things post-secondary educational institutions can do to improve people's perception of Idaho's educational system: use input from industries, the Department of Labor, and Economic Development Counsels; improve partnerships with business and industry, and allocate state money to leverage money from other sources; and improve assessment in ways to access and predict the outcome of an action. He said ISU provides \$19 million a year in financial assistance, because the students in the area are very poor. The adult learner scholarships are important, he said, to help relieve the fears of failure and going in debt. ISU also provides discounts on tuition. It is important for education to be transportable and flexible, such as flexible scheduling, online classes and online advising. Other things universities can do to be more affordable is to provide financial advising, said Dr. Vailas. He said ISU currently has \$300 million in deferred maintenance of old buildings, and would appreciate support from the legislature. For every \$2.2 million the institution receives, the state needs to allocate \$7.8 million more, he added. Dr. Vailas said universities in Idaho are collaborating more than ever before. The more money the state provides to students, the greater Idaho's go-on rate will be.

In response to questions from the committee, **Dr. Vailas** said ISU has several programs to help bridge students from high school to college. For example, the summer session has large discounts on tuition, and attending the summer session gives students confidence they can finish college. The dual-enrollment classes also give high school students confidence they can complete college, and make college less expensive for them, said Dr. Vailas. ISU employs professional recruiters to go to high schools and build relationships to improve college go-on rates and retention. Dr. Vailas said he is proud of his faculty, because they work hard to develop the whole student, and he also encourages ISU faculty to go to high schools to build relationships. The national average for GED Program completion is 12%, said Dr. Vailas, but the completion rate for ISU's GED Program is 76%. The university has programs to identify at-risk students and intervene to increase the retention rate.

Dr. Bob Kustra, President of Boise State University, gave a presentation on BSU's goals and initiatives. He said 70% of BSU's funding comes from the state. The university raised approximately \$18 million of its \$52 million goal, but it is not enough for the amount of scholarships the institution needs, he said. BSU found more people would donate money for scholarships if they were asked to donate enough to help move one student through one year of college. College retention is increased to 80% from the first year to the second year with the aid of scholarships, he added. BSU has found that the cost of post-secondary education goes up if it takes a student more than four years to complete a four-year degree, said Dr. Kustra. BSU created a "Finish in Four" Program which insures students will graduate in four years, if they follow all the instructions. BSU has 4,000 students who are taking classes completely on line, and the number of online courses and degrees is increasing. The majority of students will take at least one online class, said Dr. Kustra. All the colleges and universities are doing a great job of increasing their dual enrollment classes, he added. BSU's dual-credit enrollment has increased by 80% over the last four years, and over 21,000 credits have been earned by high school students. If a high school student does well and takes the right courses, he said, the student can reduce college by one year. Dr. Kustra said BSU's honors college is convincing students and parents there is no reason to go out-of-state for education with high rigor, which is saving Idaho families money. Also, one-third of students who go out of state for college do not return to Idaho after college, he said.

BSU's efforts to improve the number of students in post-secondary education, and the number of students in teacher education programs, include the following: investigating a "Parents' Academy" Program based on the one at the University of Arizona, for parents with no post-secondary education experience; the Pesky Award for Inspirational Teaching presented to four teachers at graduation; and finding out from parents why there is not more praise for teachers. **Dr. Kustra** spoke of the College of Innovation and Design and the Beyond the Major Program, which includes certificates of readiness from the Harvard Business School. Dr. Kustra said colleges need to educate students for the skills and competencies for current jobs, and to create programs focused on skills and competencies. There are not enough computer scientists with the skills to deal with current issues, said Dr. Kustra, and they are not staying at the same job for more than two years. BSU needs more faculty in computer scientists, and it is using IGEM Funds to hire more computer science faculty. The number of computer science faculty tripled from 2014 to now, he added. BSU is asking Apple for funding, he said, and Apple will have confidence in BSU's programs if the legislature shows confidence in BSU.

In response to questions from the committee, **Dr. Kustra** said one of the goals of the Beyond the Major Program is to evaluate the marketability of majors, but it is short-sighted to look at only the last three to five years of current need. Majors in science, technology, engineering, math and business are not the only marketable jobs. The Beyond the Major Program is designed to stand alongside the major of students graduating with a bachelor's degree, he added. Instead of shutting down "unemployable" majors, said Dr. Kustra, those majors should have some business education and experience. Two programs are designed to give students experiential education: Boise State X Program and Work You Program.

ADJOURN: There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting was adjourned at 10:25 a.m.

Representative VanOrden
Chair

Jenifer Cavaness-Williams
Secretary