

MINUTES
SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

DATE: Wednesday, January 23, 2019

TIME: 3:00 P.M.

PLACE: Room WW55

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chairman Mortimer, Vice Chairman Thayn, Senators Winder, Den Hartog, Crabtree, Woodward, Lent, Buckner-Webb, and Ward-Engelking

ABSENT/ EXCUSED: None

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.

GUBERNATORIAL APPOINTMENT VOTE: Deborah Critchfield, Oakley, ID, re-appointed to the State Board of Education to serve a term Commencing July 1, 2018 and expiring July 1, 2023.

MOTION: **Vice Chairman Thayn** moved to send the gubernatorial appointment Deborah Critchfield to the State Board of Education, to the floor with the recommendation that she be confirmed by the Senate. **Senator Crabtree** seconded the motion. The motion passed by **voice vote**.

PRESENTATION: **Dr. Chuck Staben**, President, University of Idaho (University), presented to the Committee his final report as President of the University. He expressed his appreciation for the opportunity to serve for the past five years.

Dr. Staben responded to the questions Chairman Mortimer gave him the prior week. He detailed the successes of student educational outcomes, agricultural research enterprises, and the promotion of college access through affordability. He commented on the progress of Advanced Opportunities and wondered if the program is serving the students it was designed to help.

Dr. Staben explained the University's efforts to improve the college-going culture with direct admissions; the Fast-Forward program; Vandal Ideas Project: Engage; and Durable Admissions. He pointed out to the Committee the many different areas across the State where the University's law school and extension offices are located. He recounted students' life-changing successes and highlighted an alumni's accomplishments (Attachment 1).

In response to questions from the Committee, **Dr. Staben** provided information regarding the law school enrollment shift, the variety of scholarships which encourage student enrollment, and the Opportunity Scholarship.

Chairman Mortimer thanked him for his years of service to the University.

PRESENTATION: **Carson Howell**, Chief Financial Officer, State Board of Education (SBE), presented the Higher Education Service Optimization Study. He introduced Andy Scoggin, SBE Board Member, who was involved in the study and who helped with the writing of the report.

Mr. Howell said this study comes from the first recommendation from the Governor's Higher Education Task Force; the SBE drives the efficiencies and cost savings which provide a higher level of services through back office functions. The suggestion is to migrate from the current federated system of institutions to a more integrated centralized and student-centric system. He explained how Huron Consulting (Huron) was selected to perform the study. He detailed for the Committee the areas Huron reviewed and their recommendations towards "Systemness."

Mr. Howell explained the Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) system and detailed the estimated implementation costs and possible long-term savings. He explained what systems Boise State University (BSU) implemented and was unaware of the costs they incurred to execute their ERP (Attachment 2).

In response to Senator Woodward, **President Chuck Staben**, University, said there is considerable potential with consolidation. He stressed the benefits for the institutions, the students, and the State.

PRESENTATION: **Matt Freeman**, Executive Director, SBE, presented the Opportunity Scholarship (Scholarship) report. He reminded the Committee about history; a merit-based scholarship enacted in 2015 with a 13.5 million appropriation. He detailed the different scholarship programs housed under the Scholarship, the student eligibility requirements, and the demographics of those students who have received the Scholarship.

Mr. Freeman spoke about the Adult Learner legislation which was passed in 2018. He said the Workforce Development Council has helped market that portion of the Scholarship and that the information can also be found on the SBE website. He reported the number of applicants for the 2018 fall semester and the total moneys awarded for the Scholarship. **Mr. Freeman** said the Post-Secondary Scholarship, which is based on matching funds, is not being utilized to the fullest; there are unused funds (Attachment 3).

Mr. Freeman responded to questions from the Committee. He suggested the statutes for the Scholarship be reviewed; often the timing of awarding the scholarships does not match the school cycle. He stated students receiving scholarships are not necessarily seeking high-demand degrees, and the average GPA for scholarship students is 3.4. **Mr. Freeman** stated the SBE has established new guidelines to facilitate the OP distributions and the scholarship is posted on the SBE and all institutions' websites.

PRESENTATION: **Tracie Bent**, Chief Planning and Policy Officer, SBE, presented the Educator Evaluation Review. She said Idaho Code § 33-1004 states they must conduct an annual review of a sample of teacher evaluations. She reported the SBE's findings in response to the legislative mandate and gave an overview of the evaluation process and results. **Ms. Bent** described the methodology of the teacher evaluations and the timeline for completion. She said the SBE staff compiled data from teacher files, on-site visits, and surveys.

Ms. Bent said the professionals who participated in the review included current and past superintendents, district leaders, principals, and faculty for Idaho preparation programs. She detailed the review process and ensured there was accuracy and reliability among the raters; all were chosen based upon their current knowledge and use of the State's evaluation framework. **Ms. Bent** provided the findings to the Committee. She pointed out the findings show most district leaders are striving to improve the evaluation process for their district (Attachment 4).

**RECORDING
LINK:**

To hear all the presentations in completion, go to:
<https://legislature.idaho.gov/sessioninfo/2019/standingcommittees/SEDU/>.

Senator Dean M. Mortimer
Chair

LeAnn Mohr
Secretary