

Idaho Falls Higher Education Advisory Council Meeting Minutes
August 11, 2004
Bennion Student Union Multipurpose Room - University Place – Idaho Falls

Attendees: Jim McFadden (Chair), Carol Baldwin, Don Bird, Rob Chiles, Shlene Cox, Marge Foster, Connie Gomez, Scott Hamilton, John Hansen, Chuck Hatch, Kipp Hicks, Keith Hinckley, Scott Hinschberger, Ann Howell, John Kijinski, Jonathan Lawson, Libby Howell, Carol Lowe, Linda McCoy, Linda Milam, Phil Packer, Dave Radford, Bernie Sikorski, Anne Sneed, Carol Spain, Bob Stiger, Ken Taylor, Jerry Wixom, Mark Young

Introduction of Attendees: Chair Jim McFadden introduced Valerie Watkins and Jim McClain from the Washington Group. Attendees briefly introduced themselves.

Welcome and Approval of the, Meeting Minutes: Jim welcomed everyone and requested a motion to approve the minutes of the last meeting. *John Hansen moved the minutes of April 14, 2003 be approved. Linda Milam seconded. Motion carried.*

Committee Reports: Jim McFadden reported on behalf of Harold Blackman that the Business and Community Education Needs Committee is looking at conducting a survey to assess needs. The committee is also responsible for evaluating the performance of the institution. Marge Foster indicated the Public Relations Committee has not met since last April. There has been discussion about inviting the media to some of the Advisory Council events; getting information about University Place out through video, interviews, and news articles; and working with entities like the Chamber of Commerce. Jim encouraged Council members to be active in a committee, as that is where the work of the Council is really conducted. Mark Young announced the Advocacy Committee will host the first annual Legislative tour on September 16. All legislative candidates throughout the state are being invited. The university presidents will talk about their needs, missions and the collaboration of higher education in Idaho Falls. Park Price, President of the Bank of Idaho, Doug Crabtree, CEO of EIRMC and Christine King of AMI will focus on the value of investment in higher education to the state. The hope is that this will be a good initial communication between this group and legislators. John Hansen asked members to contact any legislative candidates they know and extend a personal invitation. The committee will also meet to focus on the strategy for the legislative session and communicating with the State Board of Education. A potential trip to the legislature was discussed and late January was identified as the appropriate time. Donations are being solicited to cover expenses for the forum. Jim added that the Advocacy Committee has the responsibility of finding operating funds for the entire Council throughout the year.

Institutional Reports: Jonathan Lawson reported that due to budget cuts ISU has had to cut adjunct faculty and course sections. This may mean fewer students enrolled. He reviewed the history of higher education and University Place in Idaho Falls. He emphasized the partnership between ISU and UI is essential. The land transfer will not affect the services and institutional commitment from ISU and UI to University Place. The agreement forged in 1988 and the leases need to be updated and maintenance employees transferred but the transition should be seamless. The SBOE has completed and ratified the 8- year plan. Part of that is to inventory the hopes of what each institution will deliver to each part of the state. He distributed a brochure on the ISU 5-year plan summary.

Chuck Hatch extended regrets from President Tim White for not being able to attend the meeting. Since beginning the position the first of August, he has been traveling the state and getting to know the needs of industry and citizens and opportunities for higher education. The Vision and Resource Task Force is charged with developing a UI focus for programs. This would be refined so the programs would be consistent with the resources available. The goal is to have the report ready for comment this fall. The Advisory Council has been invited to participate in a meeting and video conferences locally. One area of focus for the UI is the Water Center in Boise. It is a wonderful facility that brings several agencies together to focus on water policy issues and research. Chuck encouraged everyone to visit it when they are in Boise.

UI expects undergraduate enrollment to be up about 2% and graduate enrollment up about 5%. Idaho Falls enrollment will be flat or have a slight decline due to the uncertainty at the INEEL regarding who will have the

INL contract. He expects that to change once a decision is announced. UI is partnering with ISU to provide a much stronger Nuclear Engineering program to complement the Lab vision. A \$16 million NIH grant involves UI, ISU, BSU and others and will build a biomedical network in the state to create an environment conducive to biomedical research. All Idaho higher education institutions will have a niche role. UI has the same funding issues as ISU and higher education in general. Dependence is on external revenue streams and student fees to allow delivery of new and appropriate programs. The assistance and support of the Advisory Council and the Advocacy Committee is needed now and in the future. In the last year the UI received \$105 million in grants and contracts; graduated 90 Ph.D.s 1,000 Masters and 4,000 undergraduates; and contributed to the technology of the state.

Scott Hamilton said EITC's mission is a somewhat different than the universities. Their focus is on technical training and professional technical education. They provide both 1 year and 2 year certificates and Associate degrees in technical areas and provide workforce education and customized training for business and industry. They have begun preparing for the self study for the Northwest Accreditation Association. They will also work on revising the strategic planning process. They will focus on a working plan that will be functional and guide progress at the college. EITC is operating at capacity. The health care, industrial, and business programs are very strong. Enrollment for 03-04 was up 7% and it is up again this year. They are improving facilities, adding additional parking, and are using grant money to add nine new smart classrooms. They will be able to incorporate online instruction using the Blackboard software. The Health Care building is moving ahead. State paperwork needs to be completed before it can go out to bid.

Phil Packer expressed appreciation for being included in the Advisory Council. Although there is a difference in leadership and funding, BYU-I and the other higher education institutions have much in common. They went through accreditation this past year and received notice in late June that they were accredited. As students graduate with baccalaureate degrees there will be implications for the institutions here as students go on to seek graduate education. They are on a three-track system. As they get closer to their maximum enrollment cap of 11,600, they are learning better how to provide regular services. They are placing interns with Idaho employers. Student teachers are in eastern Idaho as well as satellite locations, i.e. Las Vegas, Seattle and Salt Lake City. Housing for single students is ample but additional housing was needed on campus to meet the married student demand.

Jim McFadden encouraged members to attend the UI Vision and Resource Task Force meeting tonight. He also announced that since the last meeting, the SBOE appointed Bill Robertson President for EITC.

Becoming Advocates for Higher Education Discussion: Jim McFadden introduced the discussion. In addition to the planned legislative candidate forum, the universities Presidents are trying to assemble a group of state business and industry leaders to champion the cause of higher education throughout the state. The sunset of the 1% sales tax increase will have a serious impact on the state funding. Jonathan Lawson said Idaho is third or fourth from the bottom in terms of high school students continuing on to higher education. The national average is 64% and Idaho is 24-26%. The highest paid jobs in the state are going to people from out of state. John Hansen commented that the forum could become an annual event if there is good interest and attendance this time. He suggested Council members extend personal invitations to the candidates that they know. Press coverage is another key element in persuading candidate participation. Linda Milam said candidates throughout the state will receive invitations and eastern Idaho candidates will be contacted additionally by telephone, e-mail, etc. The idea of teaming up with different entities to get the message out was discussed. Those partnerships could involve IACI, economic development groups, Chambers of Commerce and businesses and industries that rely on a trained and educated workforce.

Meeting adjourned.

The next Advisory Council meeting will be December 1.

Minutes prepared by Carol Spain, Management Assistant, University of Idaho at Idaho Falls.