

Idaho Falls Higher Education Advisory Council Meeting Minutes
September 14, 2005 – 10:00 a.m.
Bennion Student Union Multipurpose Room - University Place – Idaho Falls

Attendees: Linda Milam (Chair), Doug Baker, Carol Baldwin, Ches Barnes, Jackie Beig, Joe Cannon, Max Checketts, Robb Chiles, Shlene Cox, Harold Davis, Jennifer Fisher, Marge Foster, Connie Gomez, Scott Hamilton, John Hansen, Kipp Hicks, Keith Hinckley, Scott Hirschberger, Ann Howell, Mike Lineberry, Anne Sneed Mollberg, Susan Morris, John Murdoch, Maureen Parks, Mark Paulsen, Mel Richardson, Bill Robertson, Lew Rodriguez, Ann Rydalch, Priscilla Serena, Bob Smith, Carol Spain, Kent Tingey, Anne Voillequé, Robert Wharton, Mark Young

Welcome and Introductions: Linda welcomed everyone and commented about the importance of education to the community. She thanked the legislators for taking time to attend.

Governor's Meeting on Higher Education: Linda was asked to summarize her participation in the meeting that occurred in June. The Governor came to listen and did so. It was clear that University Place and EITC are important to the community and that the community supports them. They do not want to see changes that would have a negative impact on those institutions.

Introduction of Attendees: Those in attendance briefly introduced themselves. Linda introduced Bob Smith, Interim Dean for the UI Idaho Falls Center.

Approval of the, Meeting Minutes: Linda welcomed everyone and requested a motion to approve the minutes of the last meeting. *John Hansen moved the minutes of April 20, 2005, be approved. Keith Hinckley seconded. Motion carried.*

Institutional Reports: ISU - Robert Wharton, ISU Vice President for Academics, reported the Presidential search is progressing. Finalists will be on campus in January. ISU enrollment increased 1.3% from last year and it is up about 8% in Idaho Falls. The collaboration between ISU, BSU, UI and INL on the Center for Advanced Energy Studies is exciting. BEA is making cost analyses on the best location for the building. The "I Love ISU" Scholarship Campaign is underway with a goal of \$335,000. The SBOE recently approved an Institute for Biomedical Research. He recognized the World Nuclear University Summer Institute at University Place. Another collaborative program with the INL and Idaho universities is the "2+2" Program for undergraduate students in Nuclear Engineering programs. There will be a conference in Pocatello in October on the responsible conduct of research. Homecoming is next weekend. Dr. Wharton encouraged members to visit the Stephens Performing Art Center. ISU has participated in relief efforts for Hurricane Katrina.

UI - Linda introduced Douglas Baker, the new UI Provost and Executive Vice President. Dr. Baker has valuable experience with the WSU branch campus system. He discussed partnering with local communities in visioning exercises that helped identify strengths in the major communities in Washington and the successful results. He sees opportunity to do similar things in Idaho with higher education institutions partnering with each other and communities. He thanked Bob Smith for taking over as Interim Dean. Bob also has the title of Distinguished Professor and his area of expertise is Carbon Sequestration. Dr. Baker commended Bob Stiger for his service as Dean. He discussed the importance of the universities partnering with the INL. He reported the UI budget is balanced but that doesn't mean it is funded as it should be. Faculty and staff salaries are substantially below those of their peers in other states. If higher education is to partner with INL and others there needs to be investment in human capital. One way to accomplish this is to build

the coalitions with communities to meet needs. The UI is moving forward and is working on specific objectives in teaching, research and outreach. The budget request will be based on those objectives. As part of the administrative reorganization to improve communication, the Center Deans will report directly to the Provost. UI is also participating in the Hurricane Katrina effort with fund raising and supporting displaced students. There are 10 displaced students on the Moscow campus. The Alumni Association is paying a year's tuition for them.

EITC - Bill Robertson, President, made an announcement for Lew Rodriguez that the Idaho Migrant Council has opened a community family clinic in Idaho Falls. It is funded through the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. The clinic turns away no one. President Robertson reported the enrollment at EITC is stable. The licensed practical nurse program is being offered in Salmon and in Ashton, St. Anthony, Driggs and the Teton valley. This will help meet the shortage of health practitioners in rural areas. Workforce training begins this week. Last year over 7,000 people were served. They are working with INL on some viable programs in this line. The bonding for the Health Education building closes on the 29th. The Department of Public Works is soliciting proposals from Architects/Contractors. ISU will work with EITC on the design and will co-occupy the facility. The construction will probably start in late April or early May with the completion scheduled for June, 2007. They are working with the Governor's office with respect to potential relocation of victims from hurricane Katrina to Idaho. If Idaho is a part of the relocation, this will help us be ready. The Eastern Idaho Planning Development Association ended up getting the \$3.5 million EITC lost on the Heath Education building. They will build a new Business Development Center in Rexburg which will house a training center. When that comes on line in a year, EITC intends to offer outreach education there. EITC continues to work on their self study which is part of accreditation. The accrediting team will be on campus April, 2007 for the 10 year accreditation. Bill recognized Max Checketts work at BYU-I in this regard. BYU-I has become the model for self study with the Northwest Association of Colleges and Universities. He acknowledged the legislators and thanked them for the 1% increase in employee compensation.

BYU-Idaho – Max Checketts, Academic Vice President, reported BYU-I is getting close to the enrollment ceiling. FTE for Summer was 5,810 and 11,273 FTE for Fall. The number of graduates is important to an undergraduate institution and they are looking at a goal of 5,000 to 7,000. President Clark is focused on quality and maintaining efficiency and they will review general education during the next year. There will be a number of quality initiatives as a result. They are glad to be invited to the Advisory Council. He extended an invitation for the Council to come to the BYU-I campus and to consider how the students and graduates can benefit the community.

INL - Direction and Relationships with the Universities: Mike Lineberry, Associate Director of CAES and Director of the ISU Institute for Nuclear Science and Engineering, was the guests speaker. A summary of his remarks are attached.

Chair Comments: Linda Milam thanked Mel Richardson, Ann Rydalch, Jack Barraclough and Joe Cannon for attending. She summarized that the Council would like them to take from this meeting the important role of the legislature in supporting the future of the INL and the universities collaborative efforts. They have the opportunity of playing a significant role in the future of Idaho and the world through energy. This will affect the employment base and the tax base of Idaho. People working at the INL are amongst the highest paid in the state. They contribute significantly to the tax base in a variety of ways and that is a good investment in the future. From all of those perspectives, from the world view to the mundane, the role of the INL, the universities and EITC are critical.

Discussion: The Advisory Council can help the future of the INL by keeping informed of the vision and the broad spectrum of activity as it progresses. The work the council does with the institutions is important because students are needed to become the future engineers and researchers. Idaho Falls School District 91 has approved a four year pre-engineering program beginning next fall with freshmen. John Murdoch discussed his vision for a Doctorate in leadership that would be broader than education but that could lead to an endorsement for Public School Superintendent. All three universities would provide their best and brightest and involve others from outside higher education. The three year program would include one summer at each institution. He also thanked the legislators for the 1% increase for the employees. Jack Barraclough indicated help is on the way for the universities. The legislature needs to resolve the issues of Corrections, Medicaid and Health and Welfare, and K-12. The universities are vital to the state. He is excited to see the theme of education working together expressed here. Ann Rydalch attended a meeting of 500 women legislators. There is national interest in nuclear energy. Idaho can become a premier nuclear energy center if we speak positively. Mel Richardson said he would pass along some of the issues from this meeting to JFAC as they look at how to use the surplus. It is impressive to now have a National Lab in Idaho Falls. Joe Cannon represents Idaho on WICHE. This summer representatives from 15 states met and brainstormed about education. One of the issues facing us is keeping students in college. He is also working on getting scholarships for students in Bingham County. He would like to see a consistent course numbering system between community colleges and universities. Jennifer explained that it does exist for the basic general education courses. There still needs to be articulation in specific programs such as nursing.

Meeting adjourned.

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

Remarks to the Idaho Falls Council on Higher Education
Michael J. Lineberry
Director, ISU Institute of Nuclear Science and Engineering and
Associate Director, INL Center for Advanced Energy Studies
September 14, 2005

- I'm very glad to be back before the Council.
- Those of you who know me know that my passion is nuclear energy. I believe that, with what we know today, i.e. without technological breakthrough, nuclear will soon—within decades—have to carry the load of providing for this Nation's energy and economic security. Today's version of nuclear, important as it will be, can't carry us to a future heavily reliant on nuclear power. We need an advanced version of nuclear, and a closed fuel cycle. And that effort, so hugely important to the future of our country, will be led by the INL and by the Idaho universities.
- Subject today is the developing relationship between INL and the university community, especially and specifically our Idaho research universities.
- The universities began this journey some time ago, and I need to choose carefully just how far back I go. I think the watershed events, for our purpose today, began with our involvement with each of the four bid teams. As an outgrowth of that, even before the award to Battelle, we were organizing so that the three Idaho research universities would speak with one voice to the selected contractor.
- In the BEA proposal, the Idaho universities were termed the "IUC", which we have come to define as the Idaho University Consortium, an informal organization that is led by the chief research officers of the three institutions. Bob Wharton continues to chair this group, even after his selection as VPAA, although Larry Ford as the current ISU chief research officer is now fully engaged, too (I want to acknowledge and thank Bob for what is simply outstanding work with this group-- I am amazed he can find the time to lead this emerging research and education partnership, but he has consistently done so over the entire last year). I also acknowledge and thank U Idaho for Vice President Hatch's role in this entire endeavor.
- University involvement in the INL initially is centered on the IUC and a complimentary "national" group, the National University Consortium or NUC, consisting of MIT, Oregon State, Ohio State, North Carolina State, and the University of New Mexico. Suffice it to say here that we do not intend that this be inclusive. In the end, if we are successful, the net will be cast far and wide to include many other universities that choose to participate.
- The Laboratory Director, John Grossenbacher, has made it clear that there should be no real distinction between the IUC and the NUC. What is done with and for one will be done with and for the other.
- Let's look at the INL goals, for they are sweeping in their implications. First, I'm sure you've heard many times that INL is to be, within 10 years, the preeminent internationally-recognized nuclear R&D institution in the U.S.
- For the discussion this morning, even more important is that the BEA proposal called for a Laboratory with which success is measured by six (and ONLY six) critical attributes, one of which is to have revitalized the U.S. nuclear science and engineering education and research infrastructure.
- And the DOE request for proposals enumerated a goal of Idaho becoming a world-class center of nuclear education.

- The BEA proposal is not some forgotten document, seven months since the INL launch. Lab Director Grossenbacher has said “we won on the basis of our proposal, and we’ll manage to it. It IS our strategic plan”.
- So “revitalization” of nuclear education and research, and constructing a “world-class” nuclear education environment here in Idaho, remain working goals of the Laboratory, and certainly working goals of the 3 Idaho universities.
- So how are we doing? Perhaps not surprisingly, it is a bit of a mixed bag.
- The job of “revitalizing” is staggering in its dimension for a single national laboratory, no matter what the partnerships. A little arithmetic easily displays this. There are nearly 2000 students enrolled in the U.S. in nuclear engineering curricula at all levels—B.S., M.S., and Ph.D. If we add students working in other specialties, but with a nuclear energy focus, we might get, conservatively, to 2500 as our national pool of nuclear students. But students don’t comprise the whole audience. To them we must add the faculty, and here let’s guess that a working student-to-faculty ratio is ~12, so that we count roughly 200 faculty. So our audience is 2500 students, 200 faculty. To “revitalize” the enterprise, I conjecture that you must touch or affect some reasonable fraction of that population—not 100% to be sure, but not 1% either. Let’s take contact with 20% as our “measure”—500 students and ~40 faculty. And I’ll take as “contact” undergraduates on scholarship or internship arrangement with the Lab, grad students doing their research at the Lab, and faculty partly supported to do a portion of their research in conjunction with INL work. The undergrads will cost you at least \$12,000 per year, for a modest scholarship or an internship-and-small-scholarship; and a grad student in residence will cost you about \$40,000 per year for tuition at schools like ours, and competitive stipend. Put in \$30,000 per year per faculty member for their part-time research, travel, etc.
- What do you get? About \$10 million per year to reach that 20% of the population in the way that I outlined. This just swamps what the Lab can do with discretionary research, and it is orders of magnitude bigger than what we could expect if we relied on new joint faculty-INL proposals. We cannot expect DOE to add a \$10M line item to its INL budget to carry out the revitalization mission. And thus there is only one solution...
- And that is to bring faculty and students into day-to-day life in the major, existing INL programs. Nuclear programs variously add up to a few hundred million per year at INL, and although it is true that not every program is a candidate (operations at ATR, for example), it is credible to suppose that, over time, \$10M a year of effort could possibly be directed at a university role.
- Can this be done? Over some period of time, certainly. But don’t underestimate the problems in doing it. It will require changing the way the national lab does business.
- I’ll close on a very bright note. At this moment, Senator Craig succeeded in including in the Senate Appropriations bill a \$4.5 M item for the three Idaho schools under the Institute of Nuclear Science and Engineering banner. This must be conferenced with the House version of the bill, but with both Sen. Craig and Rep. Simpson on their respective Appropriations Committees I am very hopeful that we’ll see the lion’s share of the \$4.5 M come through. This money will get us much deeper into the nuclear game. We’ll expand the 2+2 B.S. nuclear engineering program here in Idaho Falls. We’ll start the Energy Policy Institute within the INL Center of Advanced Energy Studies, with Boise State in the lead. We’ll greatly expand our nuclear energy research, led by ISU and the University of Idaho. We will position ourselves to be reliable working partners with the INL on building a successful nuclear future here in Idaho.
- Bob Wharton mentioned the 2+2 program, and asked to say just a few more words about it. The three universities united in this to provide students—of the first six in this program, one came from Moscow, one from Boise, and four from Pocatello. They’ve come to a new program in Idaho Falls, supported with scholarship money from the AREVA Group and DOE, and supported by the INL to provide a 6-month

“practicum”, lab courses, and adjunct faculty to teach what I refer to as new “sexy” electives which you won’t find in our traditional departments today. We’re working with the State Board of Education to make the degree we grant them a joint degree of ISU and the institution—UI or Boise State-- which sent them.

- **The delegation’s funding for the Institute, and the 2+2 program, are great examples of what our Universities can do working together as a team with the INL to build our role in the Nation’s energy future. And this is just the start.**