

Idaho Falls Higher Education Advisory Council Meeting Minutes
April 20, 2005
Bennion Student Union Multipurpose Room - University Place – Idaho Falls

Attendees: Linda Milam (Chair), Carol Baldwin, Jackie Beig, Don Bird, Leonard Bond, Richard Bowen, Jerry Brady, Max Checketts, Robb Chiles, Shlene Cox, Harold Davis, Bonnie Franz, Connie Gomez, Nikie Greene, Scott Hamilton, John Hansen, Scott Hinschberger, Ann Howell, Carol Johnson, Carol Lowe, Linda McCoy, Jim McFadden, Janice McGeachin, Randy Morris, Susan Morris, John Murdoch, Cal Ozaki, Mark Paulsen, Bruce Roberts, Bill Robertson, Anne Sneed, Carol Spain, Bob Stiger, Ken Taylor, Kent Tingey, Robert Wharton, Tim White, Mark Young

Welcome and 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 December 1, 2004, be approved. Carol Johnson seconded. Motion carried.*

Introduction of Attendees: Those in attendance briefly introduced themselves.

Recognition: Linda Milam recognized Jim McFadden for his years of effective leadership and service to the Advisory Council. Jim McFadden recognized Keith Hinckley for his work in establishing the Diversity Committee and the creation of a Diversity Plan for University Place. He also recognized Connie Gomez for her contributions to the success of various Diversity events and the Diversity Committee.

Institutional Reports: Idaho State University – President Bowen said the advocacy and advisory role of the Council is very important for public higher education. He introduced Bob Wharton, Acting Vice President for Academic Affairs. He emphasized the importance of the new INL contract and the role of the Idaho universities. It provides opportunities for the three Idaho universities to work together to benefit the Laboratory. He expressed his appreciation and confidence that more will come of it. The biggest change from the legislative session in regard to public higher education was the approval of tuition. It can now be used to support faculty and provide opportunities for development. In the long term it could lead to greater reliance on students for paying for their higher education. ISU is in good shape. They are committed to the further development of this center and working with other institutions, in particular EITC, to achieve the huge potential of this area.

University of Idaho – President White said the state of the University of Idaho is strong. There has been a lot to deal with the last nine months. A lot of input has been received and decisions have been made to reduce unnecessary administrative costs and where they will be investing resources in five areas of the future. They just completed the ten year accreditation process and the UI is accredited for the next ten years. He encouraged the participation of the Council in the selection of the next UI Provost and Executive Vice President. The person will be the Chief Operating Officer and the Chief Academic Officer. The position is responsible for the entire day to day enterprise. There were 58 applicants and 4 outstanding finalists. A Plan for Renewal of People, Program and Place is on the website. It talks about how the UI needs to invest in student capital. It is becoming increasingly difficult for higher education institutions to recruit and retain the intellect needed in this state. The UI is focusing on programs. A key part is the partnership among the institutions and the INL. The interaction will enrich the universities, the student experience, and the outcomes for everyone. The focus on research and development in energy areas is important to Idaho and the nation. He thanked the legislators and the Governor for a budget the university can work with. It allows to lower the fee increase. The UI will ask the SBOE for a 9.3% increase tomorrow. He will also talk with them about the relationship between the UI and the UI Foundation. There needs to be a functional relationship both in business and legal with a necessary distance between the two organizations. He is encouraged about that conversation. It may relate to all state universities.

Eastern Idaho Technical College – President Robertson reported enrollment statistics. The Foundation annual scholarship drive raised \$140,000 this year. That is used exclusively for scholarships. All institutions

have a need to raise fees. EITC is concerned about access issues and affordability for their students and they will request a 3% increase in fees. Student fees are used for maintenance and operation expense. It appears that bonds will soon be issued for the Health Education building. With luck, construction should begin in 8-12 months. ISU will partner in use and design of the building. In partnership with ISU, INL, CAES, and the Electric Power Research Institute, they have proposed to the Department of Labor funding for a significant curriculum project with national implications. It would develop a single, nation-wide, standardized curriculum for entry level electrical and mechanical technicians. EITC has embarked on the 18 month self study for accreditation. They are also developing a comprehensive Master Plan that encompasses every aspect of their campus. Four EITC students participated in a national competition in Seattle for Students in Free Enterprise. Their web site development and design project won the championship and a \$15,000 prize. This is one example of the success of students in the state.

Brigham Young University Idaho – Max Checketts, Academic Vice President, shared that there is no news on the new President. Interim President Bob Wilkes is doing an excellent job. They have two buildings that are being significantly remodeled and have to be done by August 15. The construction teams are working 20 hours/day. The faculty hiring season is over and they had 43 openings and were able to hire 37. This week is their spring graduation. They will have 1600 graduates and a record of 1200 that will march. Over half of their graduates are married. It is important to continue to work together. They are still continuing to develop articulation with all the institutions in the state. They appreciate what the other institutions do in the common goal to provide higher education.

Report on the Legislative Session – Janice McGeachin explained the way she helps higher education is to work behind the scenes to keep the Medicaid budget under control so money is available to invest in education. More money is spent on Medicaid and Welfare issues in Idaho than on education. In the past twenty years Medicaid has tripled its percentage of the state budget. During that same period of time, the percentage for public education has remained stagnant and higher education has decreased by one third. That trend is opposite of where spending should be. With the expiration of the 1% sales tax, next year will be a challenging year even with a surplus. It will be another maintenance budget. The intent of the tuition law is to help the universities be more efficient with their spending. The partnership with Battelle is an exciting opportunity. She agrees with President White that our greatest asset is human capital and that students are important and a priority.

Battelle Energy Alliance and CAES: Leonard Bond, Director of the Center for Advanced Energy Studies, discussed the uniqueness of university and Lab partnerships. The new Idaho National Lab is not only a change of contractor, it is a change in mission and will benefit the region and the nation. CAES will be on this campus in a location to be determined. It will not be a DOE building but a state/university building. The CAES mission is to become a world class advanced energy organization with an emphasis on nuclear energy. At the present they are part of the INL but they will become a 501c3, an independent foundation. He is working closely with Andy Klein who is the Director for Education, Training and Research Partnership. CAES has Mike Lineberry, the Associate Director for Education who has a long relationship with the INL and ISU. There will be an Associate Director for Research and an Associate Director for Energy Policy that they are working with the universities to fill. EITC is involved through a training partnership. The World Nuclear University Summer Institute is under the CAES umbrella. It will be a major event involving 75 students from 33 countries this July and August in Idaho Falls and at this center. The major education development is the new Idaho undergraduate degree 2+2 program in nuclear engineering. The first two years will be done at any of the three Idaho research universities and the last two will be done here. There are 9 applications for the program this fall. Eventually it will accommodate 12 students/year so there will be 24 students interning at the INL each year. This will require additional research faculty. They want to establish a multi university interdisciplinary activity for an NSF proposal. The heart will be in Idaho Falls with technology centers at each of the three Idaho universities and at least one or two of the national university partners. Growing energy needs and depleted resources are the driving forces for the research agenda. The full NSF proposal will be done in 18 months. The CAES building is due for completion in 2008. There is \$14,000,000 available for the first building.

Discussion – CAES: The SBOE will be given an informational presentation on CAES. In June they hope to get approval from the SBOE on specific bonding issues. Work is being done on how to get the building on the north side of the railroad tracks. CAES will revitalize the Lab. The Advisory Council can help by talking with and informing people about the importance of CAES and its mission to this area and the state. CAES will go forward with or without a national energy policy. It would be helpful to have one. The building will be designed to be expanded. Public attitude toward nuclear power was discussed. People will come to understand the basic science and technology through education.

Other: John Murdock said one way to make the high school senior year more meaningful is through concurrent enrollment. To do that teachers need an MS in the content area. Ways to accomplish that were discussed. President Bowen and Vice President Wharton will look into what can be done to make it work.

The next Advisory Council meeting will be Wednesday, September 14, 2005.

Meeting adjourned.

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