

Idaho Falls Higher Education Advisory Council Meeting Minutes
January 11, 2006 – 10:00 a.m.
Bennion Student Union Multipurpose Room - University Place – Idaho Falls

Attendees: Linda Milam (Chair), Juan Alvarez, Doug Baker, Ches Barnes, Harold Blackman, Robb Chiles, Shlene Cox, Aicha Elshabini, Jennifer Fisher, Marge Foster, John Hansen, Kipp Hicks, Scott Hirschberger, Anne Howell, Carol A. Johnson, Carol J. Johnson, Frank Just, Jim McFadden, Anne Mollberg, Randy Morris, John Murdock, Phil Packer, Maureen Parks, Mark Paulsen, Dave Radford, Bruce Roberts, Bill Robertson, Lew Rodriguez, Bob Smith, Carol Spain, Anne Voillequé, Mark Young

Welcome and Introductions: Linda Milam welcomed everyone. She announced that Jim McFadden and John Hansen have agreed to act as interim chairs as she leaves. Attendees introduced themselves.

Approval of the, Meeting Minutes: Linda requested a motion to approve the minutes of the last meeting. *Minutes accepted as written.*

Institutional Reports: ISU – Jennifer Fisher, ISU Dean for Enrollment Planning and Outreach, extended greeting from Interim President Michael Gallagher. They are encouraged by the Governor's State of the State address regarding the proposed increase in math requirements, 4.8% increase in higher education budgets and the emphasis on accessibility and affordability through community college classes. About 1/3 of the students served at ISU in Pocatello could be defined as community college and about 1/2 of ISU students in Idaho Falls. She reviewed the four ISU presidential candidates' schedules and invited the Council to participate and provide feedback. They are working with EITC to determine the programs in the new Health Science building. Ann Howell described the Diversity events planned for February 3 and February 16. The students are invited to attend presentations, demonstrations and other activities to create excitement and familiarity with higher education on the morning of the 3rd. Students and parents are invited to dinner and meetings with mentors to gain information on higher education. Ann recognized Connie Gomez's organization of the events.

UI – Provost Doug Baker reported the UI has been going through a number of exercises resulting in the Strategic Plan that will be implemented this spring. The first goal of the Strategic Plan involves focusing on discovery for students with integrated courses. A \$1 million pool of seed money was put in place to encourage the development of research programs, and three proposals will be identified to receive funding. The centers and extension offices will provide outreach to help students throughout the state. A group of community leaders and administrators in north Idaho visited the Washington State University branch in Vancouver to see how communities, government and universities can work together. That partnering has been successful in generating international interest and attracting industry. Doug introduced Dr. Aicha Elshabini, who is the new Dean of the UI College of Engineering effective in July. Bob Smith, Interim Dean for the UI at Idaho Falls, discussed the UI Centers Task Force. The task force is studying the best way to structure the centers in Idaho Falls, Boise and Coeur d'Alene to deliver the whole benefit of the UI throughout the state. The task force will be in Idaho Falls to identify effective ways we can partner with the INL and ISU to bring students to Idaho Falls for graduate education in energy issues. There has been an appropriation through the DOE that will provide opportunities to hire several new faculty members to expand our educational and research opportunities in nuclear and other related engineering fields.

EITC – President Bill Robertson announced that Linda Milam will serve on the EITC Foundation Board. The Governor’s community college initiative is an effort to increase access and affordability to post secondary education. EITC currently serves the community college function in this area with programs including practical nursing, work force training and adult basic education. The Department of Transportation microwave system is used for distance learning. The \$5 million proposed in the Governor’s Initiative is a beginning and a building block. He is hopeful the legislature will give it careful analysis and study. If it doesn’t pass, EITC will continue to do what it does. There are other legislative funding issues for EITC. The base MCO is reasonably secure. Within the budget request is \$92,000 to increase capacity for those programs with high demand and that are at capacity enrollment. The first priority will be in the health education domain. There is also a \$145,000 request for capital equipment in instructional programs. As a professional technical college, it is important to keep up to date on technology and equipment so students can be prepared to enter industry. Discussions to validate the design of the Health Education Building are taking place between EITC, ISU and the architect. Ground breaking is anticipated for mid-spring, and they hope to occupy the building in the fall of 2007. The cost of construction has sky rocketed over the last three years and has affected the square footage. The enrollment at EITC is stable at just under 10,000. The EITC Foundation will hold their scholarship drive in March and April. Last year the foundation raised in excess of \$150,000. Linda Milam added that the Foundation Endowment is now at \$3 million.

BYU-Idaho – Phil Packer, Associate Vice President for Instruction, reported the winter semester enrollment for BYU I is 11,000 FTE and the head count is over 12,000. They are working toward a cap of 11,600 and are already close to that number for the fall and winter terms. President Clark has identified six initiatives that they are working on. The first is the campus master plan. Work is being done on the Snow Theatre and the Hart and the Manwaring buildings will be remodeled. With growth, parking has become an issue and they are assessing how best to deal with it. Second is how they can serve more students. The three-track system allows them to serve more students but the summer term needs to grow from 5,500 to 11,600. The third initiative is how to optimize student experience. The fourth is identifying methods to enhance online learning opportunities, an item of interest for President Clark. The fifth initiative involves general education activities. The final initiative is the learning model. They have been challenged by President Clark to develop basic principles unique to the BYU I vision that will impact all programs. Their degree programs include experiential learning and they are using urban hubs around the country to provide internships. Collaboration with other universities has been helpful in growing their faculty. He expressed appreciation of the UI doctoral program in adult learning as a key program, and they would like to explore other opportunities for faculty and students. They appreciate the intern placement at the INL as well as research opportunities for faculty. They were granted accreditation in Spring ’04 and will have their interim visit this spring.

Upcoming Events: Linda Milam announced the Orientation for new members is tentatively set for 7:30-9:00 a.m. on February 8. The next Advisory Council meeting will be April 6 and BYU-Idaho President, Kim Clark, will be the speaker.

INL – Future Directions: Carol A. Johnson, Director of Infrastructure, Optimization and Integration and Planning for the Battelle Energy Alliance, described her position as “bricks and mortar planning” for the INL as the Lab moves into nuclear energy research. The BEA proposal included specific items regarding infrastructure. Three campuses will be formed that encompass the Science and Technology Complex in Idaho Falls and the Materials and Fuels Complex and the

Reactor Technology Complex at the site. They will reduce the current occupancy space by 1 million square feet and will construct at least 400,000 square feet of new space using funds other than DOE. They are supporting CAES and the proposal includes funding to support construction of that facility. She focused on five of the twelve guiding principles for the process that began last February. They are in the business of research and development so every building will focus on that, and the location of University Place provides an opportunity for collaboration on physical infrastructure. One of the challenges is to create an identity for the Idaho National Lab that reflects its preeminence in research and that is very attractive to the community and visitors. They have received formal approval from the DOE for construction of new facilities in Idaho Falls. The first will be a new laboratory facility located either north or west of EROB. It will be approximately 250,000 square feet with over half being laboratory space. The RFP from the Idaho Department of Public Works has been issued for the CAES building. The INL has a commitment to the State to have that building constructed and completed in 2008. They are continuing to get input from the research community on the research facilities and they want to have facilities for their business, programs, and staff, and that will attract well known individuals.

Discussion: John Murdock brought up the possibility of classroom opportunities for District 91 with INL. Bob Smith asked about the time line for a roadway over the railroad tracks. Carol replied they are pursuing a congressional appropriation through the Department of Transportation to support it. It is not a top priority right now. They envision three passageways: a road and two walkways. Union Pacific is not an issue. Anne Voillequé suggested increasing the auditorium size to 500 and asked about beautification of some of the older buildings. Carol indicated she would like a larger auditorium but that it will depend on costs. The older buildings to be removed are a combination of facilities in town and at the site that are not being used or anticipated that they won't be used. Mark Young asked about knowledge of the vision for the INL, and Carol said it is not widely known. The Governor and Congressional delegations have been briefed but local legislators need to be brought up to speed.

Lew Rodriguez asked about the articulation between EITC and ISU. Bill Robertson said it isn't so much the articulation as it is that programs are full. Ann Howell said every health program at ISU has waiting lists. President Robertson said one college in the state has reserved a number of slots for EITC's LPN graduates. He doesn't know if ISU has considered it because of open enrollment. Another piece that might help is an Associate of Applied Science RN program they are planning at EITC. Linda Milam said the big issue is there are not enough student positions in the programs due to funding issues that are not easily solved. Jackie Beig said this is a hot topic for some hospitals and the Idaho Hospital Association that funds some faculty positions. Anne Voillequé said she is very impressed with the passion about education in the state. If turf could be set aside and the passion could be used with the legislature, it would be an effective voice. Juan Alvarez suggested that the institutions look at a recent Congressional report on the rising storm regarding math and science and how it is affecting the economy and use that as a topic for a future meeting.

Meeting adjourned.

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