

MINUTES  
**SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE**

**DATE:** Wednesday, February 01, 2017  
**TIME:** 3:00 P.M.  
**PLACE:** Room WW55  
**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Chairman Mortimer, Vice Chairman Thayn, Senators Winder, Nonini, Den Hartog, Guthrie, Crabtree, 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 3:03 p.m.

**PRESENTATION:** **Boise State University (BSU).** **Chairman Mortimer** welcomed Dr. Bob Kustra, President, BSU, for presentation of an update of the BSU's activities over the course of the past year.

The primary message from **Dr. Kustra** centered on the accelerating pace of change. He began by stating that he and his staff spend most of their time creating, managing, and responding to this change, which is moving more quickly than ever before. **Dr. Kustra** spoke of a new University building being constructed for the Center for Fine Arts, which will include a world museum where all citizens can take tours of museums around the world via floor-to-ceiling high-resolution video screens that include "recognition" age screens that are manipulated with the wave of a hand.

**Dr. Kustra** provided examples of how technology is accelerating in the science and digital areas, including medicine, most notably cures for cancer. He described a grocery chain in China which enables customers to check out via facial recognition and a grocery chain in the U.S. that learns how many shoppers are in the store by measuring the heat, thereby being able to regulate checkout lines accurately.

**Dr. Kustra** said whether it's science, technology or digitization, the world is moving at an accelerating pace, which directly affects education. He said the University always accepts the four-year students and matriculates them for graduation in four or five years, but a wide range of non-traditional students are also being served to meet 21st century requirements.

**Dr. Kustra** said University graduates have doubled since the Idaho Global Entrepreneurial Mission (IGEM) appropriation. He said the additional computer science faculty has doubled computer science graduates, from 20 or 30 individuals to 70. He emphasized that 90 percent of those graduating from the University remain in Idaho; of the students who live in Idaho and graduate from the University, about 80 percent stay in Idaho and approximately 45 percent of the out-of-state students stay in Idaho after graduation.

**Dr. Kustra** described a new Design Ethnography certification from the School of Innovation and Design, which is the study of earlier cultures and the application of that information to today's business world. He expressed the need to more fully address the adult learner to meet the acquisition of new skills necessary in today's rapidly changing job market. To address the School of Public Service at the University, **Dr. Kustra** introduced Professor Dean Cory Cook, Dean of the School of Public Service, BSU.

**Dean Cook** described the School of Public Service as a resource for decision-making throughout Idaho. He said the school is unique and is designed to work with local decision-makers, state agencies, and departments to improve the quality of data and information needed to make informed decisions. Twelve hundred students are currently enrolled in the program, undergraduate through Doctor of Philosophy (PhD). **Dean Cook** gave examples of how the programs function in improving student experiences in various areas. He stressed the importance of focusing on interdisciplinary training to ensure students have a background that transcends individual disciplines so they are prepared to lead in the coming decades. The school also focuses on core competencies to ensure graduates are fully competent in verbal skills, in writing and in quantitative reasoning. He said graduates should also be competent in visual data, Geographic Information System (GIS) software, financial management and business to be effective in the real business world

**Dean Cook** described the School of Public Service as a resource to research and gather data and make unbiased, nonpartisan decisions. Relating to this need, **Dean Cook** said the University has created the Idaho Policy Institute, which focuses on demographic research, economic studies, public policy and analyses, and high-quality public opinion surveys. **Dean Cook** also spoke of tenure promotion guidelines and ongoing projects throughout the State. He spoke of a recent meeting with Vice Chairman Thayn, at which they discussed opportunities to collaborate on data projects.

**Dr. Kustra** concluded the presentation by describing a new program for Albertson's LLC, which will create customized learning opportunities specific to the needs of the company's employees. **Dr. Kustra** sees this program as one that could be beneficial to other companies in the future.

Questions from the Committee included: public opinion as it relates to education funding versus tax cuts; the high cost of surveys in the cell phone age; methods of gathering relevant information; and new technology. **Chairman Mortimer** thanked Dr. Kustra and Dean Cook for their informative presentation.

**PASSED THE  
GAVEL:**

Chairman Mortimer passed the gavel to Vice Chairman Thayn.

**RS 25118**

**Relating to Public Education Stabilization Fund; Providing a Mechanism to Replace Funds.** **Chairman Mortimer** presented **RS 25118** and said the proposal is a request for a modification to the Public Education Stabilization Fund (PESF) statute requiring the Joint Finance Appropriations Committee (JFAC) transfer funds to the PESF in the same amount that is drawn out. **Chairman Mortimer** called attention to the Budget Book Reserve Fund Balances page in the Committee's packets, which illustrated the level movement being used over the past six years and said the proposed bill will help keep the PESF healthy (see Attachment 1).

**MOTION:**

**Senator Nonini** moved to send **RS 25118** to print. **Senator Crabtree** seconded the motion. The motion passed by **voice vote**.

**DOCKET NO.  
08.0501.1601**

**Rules Governing Seed and Plant Certification.** **Tracie Bent**, Chief Planning and Policy Officer, State Board of Education (SBE), presented **Docket No. 08.0501.1601**. **Ms. Bent** explained the rule comes before the Committee because it is promulgated through the Board of Regents for the University of Idaho, which is statutorily assigned the task of seed certification. **Ms. Bent** said the rule has gone before the Agricultural Committee and has been approved. **Vice Chairman Thayn** confirmed he had received an approval letter from Senator Rice, Chairman of the Agricultural Committee.

**MOTION:**

**Chairman Mortimer** moved to accept **Docket No. 08.0501.1601**. **Senator Den Hartog** seconded the motion. The motion passed by **voice vote**.

**PASSED THE GAVEL:**

Vice Chairman Thayn passed the gavel to Chairman Mortimer.

**S 1029**

**Chairman Mortimer** welcomed Blake Youde, Chief communications and Legislative Affairs Officer, State Board of Education (SBE).

**Relating to Education; Provide School Counseling Services Regarding the Career Technical Credits. Authorized Schools to Grant Credits. Mr. Youde** presented **S 1029** and said the proposed legislation provides technical correction to Chapter 51, Title 33, which is the original dual credit statute. Enacted in 1997, this statute had only academic courses envisioned for dual credit. Since that time, dual credit encompasses career technical education courses, and this legislation references the technical credit courses as dual credit courses.

**MOTION:**

**Vice Chairman Thayn** moved to send **S 1029** to the floor with a **do pass** recommendation. **Senator Guthrie** seconded the motion. The motion passed by **voice vote**. Senator Crabtree will carry the bill on the floor.

**S 1030**

**Relating to Enrollment; Amend Code to Provide Dual Enrollment in Public Charter Schools, Provide Procedures, Limitations, and Clarifications and Make Technical Corrections. Mr. Youde** explained this proposed legislation amends the dual enrollment provisions for non-public and public charter school students to clarify that the student of a non-public school or a public charter school is allowed to enroll in any public school, including another charter school, for dual enrollment purposes. **Mr. Youde** explained that the legislation states if a student dual enrolls in a public charter school, that student does not count toward the public charter school's maximum enrollment, nor can dual enrollment be used to circumvent a public charter school's lottery requirements. **Mr. Youde** provided answers to questions that had been raised previously on this proposed legislation relevant to enrollment, standards, and extra-curricular activity.

Discussion centered on over-enrollment and exceeding the cap. **Mr. Youde** assured the Committee this would not be the case. Discussion also included the effect on the lottery process, academic standards, and participation in extracurricular activities. **Mr. Youde** referred the Committee Idaho Code § 33-203 for details.

**MOTION:**

**Senator Nonini** moved to send **S 1030** to the floor with a **do pass** recommendation. **Senator Den Hartog** seconded the motion.

**Vice Chairman Thayn** asked how the legislation applies to the Advanced Opportunities program and funding as relates to these students. **Ms. Bent** explained there is specific language in the Advanced Opportunities section of Idaho code which requires those students to be public school students.

The motion passed by **voice vote**. Senator Nonini will carry the bill on the floor.

**ADJOURNED:**

There being no further business, **Chairman Mortimer** adjourned the meeting at 4:02 p.m.

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Senator Dean M. Mortimer  
Chair

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LeAnn Mohr  
Secretary

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Jeanne Clayton  
Secretary