

MINUTES
SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

- DATE:** Monday, January 20, 2020
- TIME:** 3:00 P.M.
- PLACE:** Room WW55
- MEMBERS PRESENT:** Chairman Mortimer, Vice Chairman Thayn, Senators Winder, Den Hartog, Crabtree, Woodward, Lent, 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:** **Senator Mortimer** called the meeting of the Senate Education Committee (Committee) to order at 3:07 p.m. He opened the meeting by reading the poem "Fear" from the book *A Heap O'Living Along Life's Highway* by Edgar A. Guest.
- PRESENTATION:** **Kevin Satterlee**, President of Idaho State University (ISU) and chairman of the President's Leadership Council (Council), Idaho State Board of Education (Board), explained the new philosophy of the Council. The Council is focused on creating an ecosystem of institutions to allow synergy and complimentary collaboration among the institutions (see Attachment 1). He also highlighted the impact that higher education can have on the lives of its students. **Mr. Satterlee** impressed upon the Committee the importance of higher education in Idaho's current job market, as well as the importance of cybersecurity in today's technological world. In response to Committee questions, **Mr. Satterlee** said that the faculty of ISU had worked enthusiastically with the faculty of the other universities.
- PRESENTATION:** **Dr. Marlene Tromp**, President, Boise State University (BSU), responded to the Committee's questions by sharing that the faculty of BSU were very open to trying new tactics to serve the community and their students. **Dr. Tromp** shared the ways that BSU serves their students with different learning options, as well as the commitment to prepare students for industry.
- PRESENTATION:** **Mr. Satterlee** explained ISU's commitment regarding: affordability, preparing students for high-paying jobs, retention, recruitment, student success, and efficiency.
- PRESENTATION:** **Dr. Cynthia Pemberton**, President, Lewis-Clark State College (LCSC), shared LCSC's focus on preparing students to learn, grow, and change with their industries. **Dr. Pemberton** also explained LCSC's commitment to experiential learning, which is required in all the programs. Over 23,000 people living in the Lewis-Clark Valley have received training or education at LCSC. She also shared the rates of retention, graduation, positive placement, and debt of students at LCSC. In response to Committee questions, **Dr. Pemberton** said that she believed that 80 percent of the Idaho-based students were on the honor roll because of the high degree of support provided by the small class sizes at LCSC. In 2018, 102 high school students were involved in dual credit career technical education courses.

PRESENTATION: **C. Scott Green**, President, University of Idaho (UI), shared the new developments and achievements of the past year at UI. He highlighted the successes of the extension program, the post-graduate researchers, and the scholarship programs. **Dr. Green** indicated that the coming research dairy, which will be the world's largest research dairy farm once completed, was an exciting new development at UI. He also addressed strategies to deal with the budget shortfall.

DISCUSSION: The Committee posed questions to all the presenters from the Universities. **Mr. Satterlee** responded that there is a greater focus at ISU on junior and senior-level courses due to the rising prevalence of dual credit classes. **Dr. Tromp** stated that BSU is focusing on delivering education for the technology-savvy students of today. **Dr. Pemberton** agreed that there is a need to serve students with greater degrees of flexibility. **Dr. Green** shared that UI currently has 1,950 dual credit students and that online offerings are essential to students in the coming years.

Dr. Green also responded to concerns about budget cuts and tuition freeze and said they created many challenges for staffing and counseling. They are focusing on providing career counseling and finding efficiencies to help reduce budget needs. **Dr. Pemberton** stated that while UI and LCSC deal with very different amounts of money, LCSC will need to take similar steps.

Dr. Tromp responded to questions about enrollment stagnation. BSU was seeing great amounts of enrollment growth, though the costs of delivering an education have increased. **Mr. Satterlee** addressed ISU's declining enrollment over the past several years and shared that ISU is working on improving their image, recruitment, and marketing, as well as actively working on improving retention rates.

Dr. Pemberton responded to the question that data belies the public's idea that college is too expensive to be worth the time and money. She shared her belief that the social attitude surrounding the value of college needs to change. **Dr. Pemberton** stated that LCSC's enrollment is on the rise and that they are focused on improving efficiencies of budget spending. **Dr. Green** responded that UI is addressing stagnating go-on rates by communicating to students that a college degree offers higher-paying and more interesting careers than a high school diploma.

Chairman Mortimer asked the presenters to have their support staff stand and introduce themselves. **Chairman Mortimer** expressed his thanks to the university presidents for their service to the state and students.

ADJOURNED: There being no further business at this time, **Chairman Mortimer** adjourned the meeting at 4:26 p.m.

Senator Dean M. Mortimer
Chair

Morgan Howard
Secretary

Juanita Budell
Assistant Secretary