

MINUTES  
**HOUSE EDUCATION COMMITTEE**

**DATE:** Tuesday, February 09, 2016

**TIME:** 9:00 A.M.

**PLACE:** Room EW41

**MEMBERS:** Chairman DeMordaunt, Vice Chairman VanOrden, Representatives Shepherd, Wills, Boyle, Clow, Gestrin, Harris, Mendive, McDonald, Dixon, Kerby, Pence, Kloc, Rubel

**ABSENT/  
EXCUSED:** None

**GUESTS:** Marilyn Whitney, Governor's Office; Harold Ott, Idaho Rural School Administrators; Phil Homer, Helen Price, Rob Winslow, Idaho Association of School Administrators; Mark Browns, N.I.C.; Blake Youde, State Board of Education; Clark Corbin, Educational News; Tim Corder, Sherri Ybarra, State Department of Education

**Chairman DeMordaunt** called the meeting to order at 9:03 a.m.

**MOTION:** **Rep. Rubel** made a motion to approve the minutes of February 1, 2016. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

**MOTION:** **Rep. Rubel** made a motion to approve the minutes of February 2, 2016. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

**MOTION:** **Rep. Mendive** made a motion to approve the minutes of February 3, 2016. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

**RS 24108C1:** **Senator Thayn** spoke to **RS 24108C1**. He said this legislation addresses advanced opportunity. It unifies all the components of advanced opportunities. If funding is not needed by the time students graduate high school, then it is no longer available. There is approximately \$6 million in the budget.

**MOTION:** **Rep. Gestrin** made a motion to introduce **RS 24108C1**. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

**RS 23971:** **Tim Corder**, State Department of Education, spoke to **RS 23971**. He said this legislation concerns school contracts for transportation services. It restores the local decision making back to the districts, and makes them accountable. The legislation establishes that districts are responsible for transportation contracts and obeying laws, and provides a contract districts may use if they wish. In response to questions from the committee, Mr. Corder said once the district has arrangements with a provider, the Idaho Superintendent of Public Education has twenty-one days to approve the contract.

**MOTION:** **Rep. Wills** made a motion to introduce **RS 23971**. **Motion carried by voice vote.**  
**President Kustra**, Boise State University, said people with a post-secondary education make up the top third of the socio-economic status. He added that he agrees with the governor's budget recommendations for education. BSU used Complete College of Idaho funding to bring in speakers, mentors and tutors. He said the literacy proficiency section of the budget, supporting literacy in kindergarten through third grade, is a crucial part of the budget.

**President Kustra** said that BSU grants 46% of all bachelor degrees granted in Idaho. The average cost of college is \$54,348, and the cost at BSU is only \$22,154. He added BSU is the least-funded college in Idaho. The geoscience department is one of the top twenty such departments in the nation. A study by the Department of Labor found 80% of BSU graduates continue to work in Idaho, and after five years, 65% are still working in Idaho. In addition, 44% of non-resident students stay in Idaho to work, and 83% of students from Idaho work in Idaho after graduation.

**President Kustra** added Boise has a growing technical economy, and it is important to BSU that its graduates are employable. The university spent a lot of time listening to employers to make sure its classes teach skills employers need. After listening to employers and studying programs at Harvard University, BSU created the College of Innovation and Design. BSU recruited the director of the Harvard Innovation Lab, **Gordon Jones**, to be the dean of the college.

**Gordon Jones**, College of Innovation and Design Dean, said there is a lot of pressure on higher education to keep up with technological changes. Programs which grant non-degree certificates and credentials for specific skills are becoming popular. BSU has been addressing what it considers deficits in higher education institutions, by making learning more inter-disciplines, offering classes linked to workplace demands, and encouraging more learning by doing, rather than lectures. The College of Innovation and Design, he added, is not one discipline, but pulls faculty from several disciplines. Its goal is to maintain and develop relevance for the jobs of today. He gave examples of classes in the College of Innovation and Design, some of which teach non-degree skills acquisition which can be added to any major. Students can use the college's resources to work on designs, which provides them with a compelling skill set. BSU is identifying employers who may want to offer an employee benefit to take online classes, which creates a lower turnover rate in jobs with high turnover.

In response to questions from the committee, **President Kustra** said one of the biggest problem areas to address to reach the 60% goal is in pre-k education, as many kids are behind in skills before they enter a classroom. He explained BSU has a low tuition rate, and is also the least-funded college in Idaho, which means there are a large number of students who are underserved. For example, there are too few faculty for current juniors, especially in the College of Engineering. A majority of out-of-state students say they want to work in Idaho, he added, and the impact on Idaho's economy of out-of-state students who stay in Idaho has not been calculated. Although it is difficult to get faculty to work with faculty from other disciplines, said President Kustra, the faculty at BSU are more interested in working together than the faculty at other colleges are.

In response to questions from the committee, **Mr. Jones** said the virtual reality requests, and using it to study muscle memory and public safety, are coming from the field. The goal of the College of Innovation and Design, added Mr. Jones, is to create culture change, and to be an innovation and incubation college open to other college disciplines. It borrows faculty from many disciplines. Recruitment officers have been going to high schools to educate students about BSU and the College of Innovation and Design, and one of the messages is that it can meet students where they are at and more perfectly represent their skills.

**RS 24137:**

**Marilyn Whitney**, Governor's Office, spoke to **RS 24137**. She explained this creates a new account in the higher education stabilization fund. It will be used to turn Eastern Idaho Technical School into a community college. It creates a community college start-up account, should voters approve a taxing district.

**MOTION:**

**Rep. Harris** made a motion to introduce **RS 24137**. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

**ADJOURN:** There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting was adjourned at 10:09 a.m.

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Representative DeMordaunt  
Chair

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Jenifer Cavaness-Williams  
Secretary