

MINUTES  
**HOUSE EDUCATION COMMITTEE**

**DATE:** Wednesday, January 27, 2021

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

**PLACE:** Room EW41

**MEMBERS:** Chairman Clow, Vice Chairman Kerby, Representatives Boyle, Mendive, DeMordaunt, Moon, Ehardt, Marshall, Wisniewski, Galloway, Shepherd, Yamamoto, McCrostie, Berch, Toone (Metzler-Fitsgerald)

**ABSENT/  
EXCUSED:** None

**GUESTS:** Idaho State University President Kevin Satterlee, Lewis-Clark State College Dr. Cynthia Pemberton, University of Idaho President C. Scott Green, Boise State University Dr. Marlene Tromp

**Chairman Clow** called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

College Presidents provided updates: Idaho State University (ISU) **President Kevin Satterlee** presented the successful budget streamlining implemented in 2020 to compensate for the financial impact of the pandemic. The Higher Education Stabilization Fund is funded by the interest on tuition paid in advance and has been accessed to help cover expenses. He stated ISU has the sixth lowest tuition rate in the nation and keeping it low is a priority. Pres. Satterlee described programs focused on connecting students and industries to ensure graduates are able to locate better jobs. He also outlined cooperative initiatives to help students transition between community colleges and the University. He spoke in support of **Governor Little's** funding recommendations. Pres. Satterlee presented efforts to increase their graduation rate and expand recruitment of local students. He also noted a focus on updating curriculum with industry knowledge to give students a relevant education. .

Lewis-Clark State College (LCSC) **Dr. Cynthia Pemberton** presented information about LCSC's commitment to low tuition rates due to the high rate of student loan borrowers. Dr. Pemberton stated LCSC enrollment had not declined but that preparations are in place in the event that a reduction occurs. Dual enrollment partnerships with CEI and other institutions. She stated she supports **Governor Little's** financial recommendations. LCSC offers the most online Bachelor's degrees in Idaho, aimed at working adults. She stated the retention rate, graduation rate and first-year employment rates were all rising in the ninety percentile range. Dr. Pemberton presented the success LCSC's certificate programs demonstrating industry competence, success with learning to earning. She presented streamlined budget decisions instituted to weather the pandemic but cautioned they cannot be sustained permanently.

University of Idaho (UI) **President C. Scott Green** presented agricultural programs designed to connect students and the industry. UI offers research through grants, testing and evaluation services for multiple agricultural companies. UI curriculum includes industry technology for graduates to be prepared for immediate employment. The pandemic required UI to adjust programs and budgets to continue to accommodate students while operating with fewer resources. UI is focused on the strategic priorities of increasing enrollment while keeping tuition affordable. He stated they've increased technology and research capabilities to promote virtual learning. Pres. Green said in answer to committee questions regarding how opposing world views are addressed, UI is focused on reducing barriers and maintains a diverse faculty in a moderate community who engage in constructive conversations.

Boise State University (BSU) **Dr. Marlene Tromp** presented virtually collaborations between businesses and the new cyber-security program, which is offered fully online to reach rural residents. She stated the demand increased for online classes last year but that they are open for responsible in-person instruction as well. She introduced a Free Speech project designed to bring multiple ideologies to discussion. In answer to Committee questions regarding Critical Race Theory being covered in required classes for freshman and political divisiveness on campus surrounding elections, Dr. Tromp answered that they have programs to promote healthy political dialog.

**UNANIMOUS  
CONSENT  
REQUEST:**

**Chairman Clow** made a unanimous consent request to extend the meeting to 10:25 a.m. There being no objection, the request was granted.

**Chairman Clow** asked all of the university leaders to collaborate at their next monthly meeting on veteran education and bringing local students back to Idaho at in-state tuition rates.

**ADJOURN:**

There being no further business to come before the Committee, the meeting adjourned at 10:24 a.m.

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Representative Clow  
Chair

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Christine Reynolds  
Secretary