

COMMISSION FOR HIGHER EDUCATION

Friday, September 11, 2009

INFORMATION ITEM D: Minutes of the August 2009 Commission Working Sessions

MINUTES OF COMMISSION WORKING SESSIONS

Thursday, June 11, 2009

I. CALL TO ORDER

The Commission for Higher Education met in working session starting at 7:00 p.m. (ET) at Vincennes University, Isaac Beckes Student Union President's Room, Vincennes, Indiana, with Acting Chair Ken Sendelweck presiding. The following Commission members were present: Cynthia Baker, Jerry Bepko, Dennis Bland, Carol D'Amico, Jud Fisher, Gary Lehman, Marilyn Moran-Townsend, Chris Murphy, George Rehnquist, Ken Sendelweck, and Clayton Slaughter.

Also in attendance were Vincennes University President Richard Helton, Provost Ron Davis, Vice President for Financial Services and Governmental Relations Phil Rath, and Governor's Policy Advisor Scott Jenkins. Staff present was Jason Bearce, Catisha Coates, Haley Glover, Teresa Lubbers, and Jennifer Seabaugh.

II. DISCUSSION

- A. Following dinner, Acting Chair Ken Sendelweck asked those present to observe a moment of silence in remembrance of Commission Member Dick Johnson, who passed away in late July. The group also made introductions to new Commission member Cynthia Baker, and new Commission staffer Jason Bearce.
- B. President Helton, Provost Davis and Vice President Rath provided the Commission with an overview of Vincennes University's place in Indiana's system of higher education, and the institution's areas of focus, including Academic Transfer, Early College/Early Enrollment, Career and Technical Education, 4-year Degree Programs, and Business and Industry.
- C. Following his presentation, President Helton also expressed the desire to revisit the funding formulas with members of the Commission, noting the inequities in the current formulas.
- D. Associate Commissioner for Strategic Communications and Initiatives Jason Bearce spoke with the Commission about the 2009-10 Memorandum of Understanding that has been developed to support the work of the Education Roundtable. The MOU is organized under four key areas: Academic Standards, Teacher Effectiveness, College Readiness and Strategic Communications. The Commission for Higher Education supports the administrative needs of the Education Roundtable.
- E. Associate Commissioner for Policy and Planning Studies Haley Glover announced to the group that the Commission and Ivy Tech had successfully applied to the Lumina Foundation for funding for the Accelerated Associate Degree Pilot Program. This initiative, highlighted in *Reaching Higher*, will provide up to 600 students with the opportunity to earn an Associate's Degree in less than one year. The Lumina Foundation will support the initiative at \$2.34M over the next four years.

- F. Haley Glover briefed the Commission on the status of an amendment to the 2007-13 Indiana-Kentucky Reciprocity Agreement. The amendment would open the Carroll County Campus of the Jefferson Community and Technical College to students from the south east counties in Indiana, and open Ivy Tech Sellersburg and IU-Southeast to students from Meade County Kentucky. The amendment will not change the balance of the agreement. The agreement is currently being reviewed by Indiana institutions.
- G. Jason Bearce provided an update to the Commission on the changes to Teacher and Administrator Licensing proposed by the Department of Education. Carol D'Amico proposed that the Commission take a firm stance in teacher licensing issues, and pass a resolution in support of that stance. Commissioner Lubbers suggested that we let the Professional Standards Board act, and then weigh in on the issue.
- H. Haley Glover offered a brief update on the status of Indiana's Making Opportunity Grant proposal. The proposal is due on September 11, 2009, and may provide Indiana with up to \$2M over the next four years to develop and implement policies initiatives supporting the productivity agenda.

III. ADJOURNMENT

The Chair adjourned the meeting at approximately 9:00 p.m. (ET).

MINUTES OF COMMISSION WORKING SESSION

Friday, August 14, 2009

I. CALL TO ORDER

The Commission for Higher Education met in working session starting at 7:45 a.m. (ET) at the Vincennes University Indiana Center for Applied Technology, Room 142, Vincennes, Indiana, with Acting Chair Ken Sendelweck presiding. The following members were present: Cynthia Baker, Jerry Bepko, Dennis Bland, Carol D'Amico, Jud Fisher, Gary Lehman, Marilyn Moran-Townsend, Chris Murphy, George Rehnquist, Ken Sendelweck, and Clayton Slaughter.

II. DISCUSSION

- A. Senior Associate Commissioner for Facilities and Financial Affairs and Chief Financial Officer Bernie Hannon presented information on the Commission's Core Operating Budget for Fiscal Year 2010. Noting that the state appropriation for the Commission decreased by 4% in this fiscal year, and that a planned reversion of 5% is incorporated into the budget, the Core Operating Budget is "in the black." This was accomplished through personnel changes—some vacant positions will not be replaced—and small reductions elsewhere. Gary Lehman questioned the Commission's reserve position, and asked whether this was unusual. Mr. Hannon responded that while it is unusual, the State is aware of the reserve. Due to its status as a quasi-public agency, the Commission is given latitude to manage ourselves, though we are not eligible for funding through the Salary Contingency Fund, for example. Carol D'Amico noted that most of the Commission's budget funds salaries, not Reaching Higher. Mr. Hannon responded that the Commission's plan is in its people. Staff aggressively seek external grants to support Reaching Higher initiatives, and will step up those efforts.
- B. Clayton Slaughter suggested that staff may cut down on copying expenses at Commission meetings.
- C. Chris Murphy indicated that staff should provide all Commission members with copies of all of the policies and procedures relating to the management of the Commission.
- D. Jason Bearce and Learn More Indiana Team Leader Michelle Mitchell provided an overview of Learn More Indiana's Work Plan and Budget for Fiscal Year 2010. The budget is very similar to last year, and Learn More will be stepping up efforts to communicate the college and completion agenda across the state.
- E. Marilyn Moran-Townsend announced that the Strategic Directions Subcommittee will start meeting again in September, and that College Completion and Teacher Quality will be front and center on the agenda.
- F. Teresa Lubbers made some brief comments about the tuition targets discussion, and the tuition setting process at the institutions. In her opinion, the Commission's targets were developed and handled in a professional and thoughtful way. Chris Murphy added that we need to develop a more robust communications strategy to support this work, including comparisons to other states and indexing the cost to the quality. In his opinion, we cannot couch this work in Indiana's declining family income.

III. ADJOURNMENT

The Chair adjourned the meeting at 8:55 a.m. (ET).