



**STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
TRUSTEES OF BOISE STATE UNIVERSITY
TRUSTEES OF IDAHO STATE UNIVERSITY
TRUSTEES OF LEWIS-CLARK STATE COLLEGE
BOARD OF REGENTS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF IDAHO
STATE BOARD FOR PROFESSIONAL-TECHNICAL EDUCATION**

**APPROVED MINUTES
STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
September 14, 2012
Special Teleconference Meeting
Clear Waters Conference Room
Boise, ID**

A special meeting of the State Board of Education was held September 14, 2012. It originated at the Office of the State Board of Education, in the Len B. Jordan building Clear Waters conference room located at 650 W. State Street, 3rd Floor in Boise, Idaho. Board Vice President Don Soltman and called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. Board President Ken Edmunds joined the meeting shortly thereafter. A roll call of members was taken.

Present:

Ken Edmunds, President
Don Soltman, Vice President
Emma Atchley, Secretary

Bill Goesling
Milford Terrell
Rod Lewis

Absent:

Richard Westerberg
Tom Luna

BUSINESS AFFAIRS & HUMAN RESOURCES (BAHR)

1. Boise State University – Ticketing Software Contract Renewal

BOARD ACTION

M/S (Terrell/Atchley): I move to approve Boise State University's request to extend the ticketing software agreement with Veritix for two years at a cost of \$280,800 in substantial conformance to the form provided in Attachment 2. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Terrell introduced the item and indicated this is a request for approval of a two-year extension of Boise State University's (BSU) ticketing software contract with Veritix. Mr. Terrell summarized that the renewal cost for FY13-FY15 is \$280,800 and there is no increase in the contract cost from the previous FY11-12 contract period.

INSTITUTIONAL RESEARCH & STUDENT AFFAIRS (IRSA)

1. Board Policy III.P.16 Student Health Insurance – 1st Reading

BOARD ACTION

M/S (Terrell): To approve the first reading of the amendment to Board Policy III.P.16., as presented. The motion failed due to lack of a second.

M/S (Terrell/Atchley): To exempt Eastern Idaho Technical College from Board Policy III.P.16. The motion failed 4 to 2 (Mr. Lewis, Mr. Terrell, Mr. Soltman and Mr. Edmunds voted nay).

Mr. Terrell introduced the item and indicated this item would clarify whether the institutions would be required by Board policy to offer and manage student health insurance programs.

Mr. Terrell turned the floor over to Mr. Freeman to provide further explanation. Mr. Freeman reminded the Board members that this is a first reading. He indicated the Board did consider student health insurance at its April 2012 meeting at which time a one year waiver of the policy was requested. Mr. Freeman summarized the proposed policy would still have a mandate that all full time students would be required to have health insurance. He pointed out what would change would be that the institution would have the discretion whether or not to offer health insurance coverage through their institution. I.e., if the institution decided to not offer health insurance, the student would need to obtain their own health insurance.

Mr. Freeman indicated one other change this policy would make is that the insurance the student would carry, if they opted out of obtaining insurance from the institution, would not have to be substantially equivalent to what the institution was offering, which is currently a requirement under Board policy. Mr. Freeman clarified that the institutions would still be required to verify students have health insurance coverage.

Mr. Freeman pointed out that Eastern Idaho Technical College (EITC) has requested to be exempted from this policy in its entirety. EITC pointed out that the cost of health insurance is approaching the cost of tuition for their students, adding that they serve a student population more analogous to a community college. Additionally, EITC pointed out that none of the three community colleges require their students to have health insurance.

Mr. Soltman asked if athletes and international students would be treated differently than the other student populations. Ms. Stacy Pearson from Boise State responded that they would seek mandatory insurance for both student athletes and international students. She indicated that about 85% of BSU students currently waive out of the university's student health insurance program, leaving about 15% needing insurance. Those students would be served by BSU's Student Health Services office which would help students find insurance to meet their needs and budget. She indicated BSU recognizes the issue with the student athletes and international students and would seek an RFP to obtain insurance for those populations. Mr. Soltman responded his feeling is that there shouldn't be populations of students that are treated differently and that insurance should either be provided or not for all students. Ms. Pearson responded indicating there will always be different populations of students because of different requirements, for example as with the NCAA and student athletes.

Ms. Atchley asked of the 15% that do not have insurance, does the university have a liability to help those students with their medical expenses. Ms. Pearson indicated that the policy does not address liability, only whether the student has or does not have health insurance. She indicated the university requires proof of coverage from the student before they will drop the university coverage. She added that some students who cannot afford the insurance will drop to part-time status; part-time students are not required to have health insurance under the mandate. Ms. Pearson emphasized that they do try to work with students to get them adequate coverage before reducing them to part-time status.

Dr. Goesling asked how the University of Idaho covers mental health. Mr. Ickes from the University of Idaho indicated their health care plan covers psychiatric visits and went on to describe the plan. Representatives from Idaho State University (ISU), Lewis-Clark State College (LCSC) and BSU all responded that their policies cover mental health, adding that counselors offer free counseling services. Dr. Goesling asked if student loans cover health insurance costs. Mr. Ickes from the University of Idaho responded that their understanding is that if it is a mandatory policy for the institution it can be included in the cost for attendance for federal financial aid. If it becomes optional, and not mandatory, it may not be included in the federal financial aid request. I

Dr. Goesling asked about trends of students who either obtain the institutions' insurance or opt out. Ms. Pearson said BSU's trends show a steady decrease in students' participation in health insurance offered by institutions. Mr. Ickes from the University of Idaho indicated an increase in students participating in the institution health care plans. There were other mixed responses, not indicating a trend one way or another. Mr. Edmunds asked what is required of the community colleges. Mr. Freeman indicated none of the community colleges require students to carry health insurance.

Mr. Lewis referenced the agenda materials presented to Board members where it references a student health insurance plan for BSU, ISU and LCSC "for the period of three years and seven optional renewals of one year each, subject to mutual agreement between the parties," and asked if this change would go into effect after the three year

contract or after the next fiscal year. Ms. Pearson indicated they would need to notify the insurance vendor that they would not be rebidding for the next year, so July 2013 would be when the change would occur.

Mr. Lewis asked about the reference to economies of scale being no longer applicable as well. Ms. Pearson responded that the majority of their students are not taking advantage of the insurance and they feel their efforts are better spent working with the students to get them the insurance they need rather than dropping them to part-time status. They feel they are not getting good bids because of the lack of participation rates.

Mr. Ickes reminded the Board members that the University of Idaho policy is that any degree seeking student must take part in the plan or show comparable coverage. He added that their students do not have the option to reduce to part time. Mr. Herbst indicated LCSC's part time students have not been required to carry insurance. They feel it allows students who are at the economic edges to still participate. Mr. Fletcher responded ISU's part time students are not required to carry insurance either. President Albiston responded that at EITC students who take 10 or more credits are required to carry health insurance. Part-time students may opt-in, but it is not mandatory for part-time students to have coverage. The exception at EITC is their health education students are required to carry insurance, whether they are full time or part time.

With regard to the second motion, EITC was asked to speak to the motion. President Albiston responded that they have concerns about the costs to students for insurance. They feel with the regulations and costs increasing, the fees will go up to the point of a four year college. Their student insurance costs have gone up significantly and are presently \$314 per semester, up from \$84 two years ago.

There was additional discussion about the per semester rates for insurance among the institutions. Mr. Edmunds asked about the costs for EITC being lower than the other institutions. Dr. Albiston responded that their rates were lower due to a cap on the annual % increase allowable. Additionally, EITC does not have an athletics program or housing which would drive the costs up.

OTHER BUSINESS

There being no further business, a motion to adjourn was entertained.

M/S (Terrell/Goesling): To adjourn at 2:17 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.