



**STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
April 14, 2021**

**Office of the State Board of Education
Len B. Jordan Building
650 W State Street, 3rd Floor
Boise, Idaho**

A special meeting of the Idaho State Board of Education was held via Zoom teleconference on April 14, 2021. Board President Debbie Critchfield presided and called the meeting to order at 4:00pm (MT).

Present

Debbie Critchfield, President
Andy Scoggin, Vice President
Kurt Liebich, Secretary
Dr. Linda Clark

Dr. Dave Hill
Shawn Keough
Sherri Ybarra, State Superintendent

Absent

Emma Atchley

Wednesday, April 14, 2021, 4:00 p.m. (Mountain Time)

BUSINESS AFFAIRS AND HUMAN RESOURCES

1. FY 2022 Student Tuition and Fee Rates (Academic Year 2021-2022)

BOARD ACTION

M/S (Hill/Clark): I move to direct the Executive Director of the Office of the State Board of Education to work with the college and university presidents to prepare tuition and fee requests to come before the Board, which include no increases in tuition for undergraduate, in-state students for FY2022, notwithstanding any future action of the Legislature. A roll call vote was taken and the motion carried 7-0. Mrs. Atchley was absent from voting.

Board Member Hill introduced the item. At the time of the meeting, the Legislature had not passed a Colleges and Universities budget for FY2022, and the Board needed to allow the state's four-year institutions to set their internal budgets for the purpose of planning and recruiting. Board Member Hill also discussed that it is useful for the Board to be aware of what the institutions have received as part of the federal coronavirus

relief funding, and asked Todd Kilburn, Chief Financial Officer, to provide an overview of the funding that has been received so far.

Mr. Kilburn discussed the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act, the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations (CRSSA) Act, and the American Rescue Plan (ARP), in addition to the Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund (HEERF) that was awarded in three parts as a component of the CARES Act. He discussed that institutions may distribute the portions of these funds that were allocated for students in the form of grants to cover any component of their cost of attendance and emergency costs due to the coronavirus such as tuition, food, housing, healthcare (including mental healthcare), and childcare.

The portion of funds allocated for institutional use was not previously designated to be utilized to compensate for lost revenue, but institutions are now able to utilize those funds to compensate for lost revenue, reimbursement for expenses that have already been incurred as a result of the pandemic, technology costs, professional development for faculty and staff, payroll, and additional financial aid grants for students. Mr. Kilburn discussed that institutions are required to utilize a portion of the funding to implement evidence-based practices to monitor and suppress the spread of the coronavirus in accordance with public health guidelines, and must also conduct direct outreach to financial aid recipients in regard to the opportunity to receive a financial aid adjustment in the case of the recent unemployment of a family member or independent student.

Mr. Kilburn elaborated that lost revenue includes tuition and fees, declines in enrollment, housing, supported research, cancelled events, and disruption of food service, and noted that institutions may not use the funds for capital outlay associated with facilities related to athletics, marketing, acquisition of property, or investment income. The estimated loss of revenue for the four, four-year institutions is approximately \$87.1M.

Board Member Hill inquired if the distribution of funds is based upon the US Department of Education, not the Board's jurisdiction, and Mr. Kilburn confirmed. Board Member Clark asked for clarification on whether the funds must be used for loss of revenue that has already occurred and may not be used for lost revenue in the future. Mr. Kilburn confirmed this, and noted that these are one-time funds that cannot be used to fund ongoing expenses.

Board Secretary Liebich inquired if there is data to show the context of the impact the institutions have experienced as a result of the pandemic. Mr. Kilburn discussed that this data is still being collected and calculated, but noted that the portion of funds that institutions may use to cover lost revenue is not enough for what is ultimately needed. Matt Freeman, Executive Director, added that the institutions have seen over \$87M in lost revenue alone, not including any additional expenses for technology or personal protective equipment. Mark Heil, Vice President for Finance and Administration at Boise State University, shared that the additional expenses for technology, personal protective

equipment, and student healthcare needs add up to over \$10M for BSU alone. Brian Foisy, Vice President for Finance and Administration at the University of Idaho, echoed these comments.

Board Member Hill discussed that the proposal outlined in the agenda materials would direct the institution presidents to work with the Board's executive director and bring proposals for tuition and fees before the Board once the Legislature has passed the College and Universities budget for FY2022, while committing to holding in-state, undergraduate tuition and fees at their current amount.

Board Member Keough stated that she was interested in the institutions' perspectives, noting that the four-year institutions, with the exception of Lewis-Clark State College, had pledged to hold in-state, undergraduate tuition flat at the beginning of the year. Board President Critchfield discussed that, with consideration for the financial information that was presented, it is valid for the Board to consider this action based on students' needs and what the Board needs to do to support the institution Presidents, and added that it is important to look at the full picture to ensure that students are able to continue their education in an accessible and affordable manner.

Dr. Cynthia Pemberton, Lewis-Clark State College President, discussed that LCSC has made considerable cuts as a result of the pandemic, including cuts to personnel. She stated that without a source of revenue aside from the legislative allocation, there is no way to fund a Change in Employee Compensation (CEC). Salaries at LCSC are lower than that of industry standard, and Dr. Pemberton emphasized that while LCSC will commit to holding tuition flat, LCSC will only be able to fund a CEC with an increase in tuition or an additional legislative appropriation.

Supt. Ybarra discussed that she is uncomfortable with the proposal to freeze tuition before the legislature has passed the College and Universities budget.

Mr. Foisy shared that Scott Green, University of Idaho President, is willing to commit that the UI will not raise tuition for in-state, undergraduate students.

Dr. Marlene Tromp, Boise State University President, discussed while it has been a difficult year for BSU, concern revolves around student success even if maintaining the current tuition rate means that BSU will not be able to fund its CEC. She added that the federal funds will not fully bridge the gap for lost revenue, but BSU stands in unity with the other institutions to not raise tuition.

Kevin Satterlee, Idaho State University President, discussed that ISU faced a structural budget deficit prior to the pandemic and cut more than \$12M from its permanent budget, with \$7M of this figure being salaries. He noted that ISU will break even at year-end utilizing the federal funds, and is committed to holding tuition at its current rate to ensure that students can continue to pursue their education even if it may pose difficulties for the institution.

Board Secretary Liebich echoed Supt. Ybarra's comment and noted that the institutions are foundational to Idaho's economy. He added that if the institutions implement budget cuts, the cuts will be in the areas of personnel and programming, which will affect students. He noted that the proposal will maintain access and affordability for students but stated that he is uneasy about taking this action prior to the legislature passing the Colleges and Universities budget.

Supt. Ybarra noted that the institutions will need to get spending authority for their appropriation, and inquired as to what would happen if they do not get spending authority. Mr. Freeman discussed that the Standard Appropriations Act of 1945 provides that colleges and universities have continuous appropriation of federal funds. He noted that the colleges and universities do not have federal funds appropriated by the legislature, but rather they draw down from federal programs and grants throughout the year. Board Member Hill reiterated that the Standard Appropriations Act of 1945 covers state funding and ensures an unencumbered flow of state funds.

Supt. Ybarra stated that she is worried about the action but would support the motion because the institutions are supportive of it. Board Secretary Liebich noted that the University of Idaho, Boise State University, and Idaho State University support the proposal to hold in-state, undergraduate tuition flat, and inquired if Lewis-Clark State College supports the proposal as well. Dr. Pemberton stated that LCSC will support the proposal but it may pose difficulties. President Satterlee discussed that ISU could not, in good conscious, raise tuition after everything students have endured during the past year as a result of the pandemic. He added that there will be future discussions of increasing graduate and out-of-state tuition rates next year, but that ISU will hold in-state, undergraduate tuition at its current rate.

Board Member Hill discussed that this is not an easy decision, and echoed President Satterlee's comment about future discussions of increasing tuition and fee rates to compensate for the in-state, undergraduate tuition freeze. Board President Critchfield discussed that the legislature still needs to pass the College and Universities budget, but that this action would give the institutions a degree of certainty moving forward. She added that the action will hopefully be a signal to the legislature that the Board is looking closely at the impact to Idahoans and students.

Board Member Clark discussed that it is important to recognize the institution presidents' efforts during the past year. She outlined that the presidents have revamped institution operations to ensure student safety, found ways to deliver remote and hybrid instruction, and are now preparing for commencement exercises. Board Member Clark stated that no Board Members will support the proposal lightly, but the Board is committed to maintaining student access and affordability.

There were no additional questions or comments from the Board.

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

BOARD ACTION

M/S (Hill/Keough): I move to adjourn the meeting at 4:42pm (MT). The motion carried 7-0. Mrs. Atchley was absent from voting.