



**STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING  
April 21-22, 2021**

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

A regular meeting of the Idaho State Board of Education was held via Zoom teleconference April 21-22, 2021, with the call originating from the Office of the State Board of Education in Boise. Board President Debbie Critchfield presided and called the meeting to order at 1:00pm (MT).

**Present**

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

Dr. Dave Hill  
Sherri Ybarra, State Superintendent

**Absent**

Emma Atchley  
Shawn Keough

\*Except where noted

**Wednesday, April 21, 2021, 1:00pm (MT)**

**BOARDWORK**

1. Agenda Review / Approval

**BOARD ACTION**

**M/S (Scoggin/Clark): I move to approve the agenda as posted.** A roll call vote was taken and the motion carried 6-0. Ms. Keough was absent from voting.

2. Minutes Review / Approval

**BOARD ACTION**

**M/S (Scoggin/Hill): I move to approve the minutes for the April 5, 2021 and April 12, 2021 Special Board Meetings, and the February 17-18, 2021 Regular Board**

**Meeting minutes.** A roll call vote was taken and the motion carried 6-0. Ms. Keough was absent from voting.

Board Secretary Liebich asked that it be noted in the official record that the Board received benchmark data pertaining to football coaches' contracts following the April 12, 2021 Special Board Meeting.

### 3. Rolling Calendar

**M/S (Scoggin/Clark): I move to set April 27-28, 2022 as the date and the University of Idaho as the location for the April 2022 regularly scheduled Board Meeting.** A roll call vote was taken and the motion carried 6-0. Ms. Keough was absent from voting.

Matt Freeman, Executive Director, noted that these dates are one week later than the normal scheduling for the regular April Board Meeting to accommodate Board Member availabilities.

### 4. K-20 Performance Measures

This item was provided in the agenda materials as an information item.

Board President Critchfield introduced the item and Board Member Clark discussed that data for the previous year is not yet available, but will be updated prior to the Board's review of the performance measures during the August Board Meeting. She added that following the Board's review during the August Board Meeting, the Board will update the performance measures during the October Board Meeting, and noted that this item provides an opportunity to suggest any revisions.

Board Secretary Liebich discussed degree production targets and noted that this performance measure should not be left as 'to be determined'. Tracie Bent, Chief Planning and Policy Officer, discussed that she will gather data following the conclusion of the 2021 Legislative Session so that the Board may determine the production target during the October Board Meeting. Board Vice President Scoggin echoed Board Secretary Liebich's comments and added that it is important to set the production target so that the Board can effectively measure data moving forward.

Board President Critchfield noted that the Board has not recently discussed performance measures pertaining to scholarships, and stated that she would like the Board to discuss scholarship data. Ms. Bent stated that the annual scholarship report is normally presented to the Board in December, but was delayed last year due to the pandemic. The report is included in the agenda materials for the Work Session during the April Board Meeting.

Board Secretary Liebich inquired if the Board should establish an objective metric pertaining to freedom of expression on the higher education campuses. Board Member

Clark discussed that the Board could start with data from the Association of Governing Boards and determine if there is a metric that could be adopted. Board President Critchfield discussed that there have been previous conversations about how to quantify this metric, and added that the Board will need to determine what they want to understand and what data would best represent that information.

There were no additional questions or comments from the Board.

## **CONSENT**

### **BAHR**

1. FY 2022 Appropriations

## **BOARD ACTION**

**M/S (Scoggin/Liebich): I move to approve the allocation of the FY2022 appropriation for the College of Southern Idaho, College of Eastern Idaho, College of Western Idaho, North Idaho College, and system-wide needs as presented on Tab 1b, Attachment 1.** A roll call vote was taken and the motion carried 6-0. Ms. Keough was absent from voting.

## **AND**

**M/S (Scoggin/Liebich): I move to approve the request from the Idaho Division of Career Technical Education for the allocation of the FY2022 appropriation as detailed in Attachment 1.** A roll call vote was taken and the motion carried 6-0. Ms. Keough was absent from voting.

2. FY 2022 Opportunity Scholarship Educational Costs

## **BOARD ACTION**

**M/S (Scoggin/Liebich): I move to approve the Opportunity Scholarship maximum award amount for FY2022 to be set at \$3,500.** A roll call vote was taken and the motion carried 6-0. Ms. Keough was absent from voting.

## **AND**

**M/S (Scoggin/Liebich): I move to approve the FY2022 student contribution be set at \$3,000 and to accept student-initiated scholarships and non-institutional and non-federal aid as part of the student contribution.** A roll call vote was taken and the motion carried 6-0. Ms. Keough was absent from voting.

3. Idaho State University – Multi-Year Employment Agreement – Head Women’s Basketball Coach

## **BOARD ACTION**

**M/S (Scoggin/Liebich):** I move to approve the request by Idaho State University to enter into a five (5) year employment agreement with Seton Sobolewski, Head Women’s Basketball Coach, commencing on July 1, 2021 and terminating on May 22, 2026, at a base salary of \$130,000 and supplemental compensation provisions, as submitted. A roll call vote was taken and the motion carried 6-0. Ms. Keough was absent from voting.

4. University of Idaho – Private Sewer Easement Agreement

**BOARD ACTION**

**M/S (Scoggin/Liebich):** I move to approve the request by the University of Idaho for Board approval to grant the draft easement in substantial conformance with the draft presented, and to authorize the Vice President for Finance and Administration for the University of Idaho to execute all necessary transaction documents for conveying the subject property rights as described above. A roll call vote was taken and the motion carried 6-0. Ms. Keough was absent from voting.

5. University of Idaho – Dining Services Contract

**BOARD ACTION**

**M/S (Scoggin/Liebich):** I move to approve the proposed agreement between the University of Idaho and Compass Group USA, Inc., in substantial conformance to the form submitted to the Board in Attachment 1, and to authorize the Vice President for Finance to execute the agreement and any necessary supporting documents. A roll call vote was taken and the motion carried 6-0. Ms. Keough was absent from voting.

6. University of Idaho – Release of Easement – Canyon County Property

**BOARD ACTION**

**M/S (Scoggin/Liebich):** I move to approve the request by the University of Idaho for release of the easement encumbering certain Agricultural College endowment lands located in Canyon County, Idaho so as to facilitate the sale thereof by the Idaho Board of Land Commissioners for the benefit of the Agricultural College Endowment and the University of Idaho as the endowment beneficiary; and further to authorize the Vice President for Finance and Administration of the University of Idaho to execute the Release of Easement in substantial conformance to the form submitted as Attachment 2, as well as any other documents necessary to carry out the release as approved. A roll call vote was taken and the motion carried 6-0. Ms. Keough was absent from voting.

**IRSA**

7. University of Idaho – Discontinue Master of Art Teaching

**BOARD ACTION**

**M/S (Scoggin/Liebich): I move to approve the request by University of Idaho to discontinue the Master of Art Teaching degree program as presented in Attachment 1.** A roll call vote was taken and the motion carried 6-0. Ms. Keough was absent from voting.

8. Boise State University – Master of Population and Health Systems Management

**BOARD ACTION**

**M/S (Scoggin/Liebich): I move to approve the request by Boise State University to create an online Master of Population and Health Systems Management program, as presented in Attachment 1.** A roll call vote was taken and the motion carried 6-0. Ms. Keough was absent from voting.

**AND**

**M/S (Scoggin/Liebich): I move to approve the request by Boise State University to charge an online program fee of \$790 per credit for the Master of Population and Health Systems Management program, in conformance with the program budget submitted to the Board in Attachment 1.** A roll call vote was taken and the motion carried 6-0. Ms. Keough was absent from voting.

9. Graduate Medical Education Committee Appointments

**BOARD ACTION**

**M/S (Scoggin/Liebich): I move to appoint Dr. Luisa Hiendimyer to serve on the Graduate Medical Education Committee as a Designated Institutional Official, with a term expiring in 2025.** A roll call vote was taken and the motion carried 6-0. Ms. Keough was absent from voting.

**PPGA**

10. Indian Education Committee Appointments

**BOARD ACTION**

**M/S (Scoggin/Liebich): I move to reappoint Mr. Bob Sobotta, representing Lewis-Clark State College to the Indian Education Committee effective July 1, 2021 and expiring June 30, 2026.** A roll call vote was taken and the motion carried 6-0. Ms. Keough was absent from voting.

**AND**

**M/S (Scoggin/Liebich): I move to reappointment Dr. Rex Force, representing Idaho State University to the Indian Education Committee effective July 1, 2021 and expiring June 30, 2026.** A roll call vote was taken and the motion carried 6-0. Ms. Keough was absent from voting.

**AND**

**M/S (Scoggin/Liebich): I move to reappoint Ms. Jessica James, representing the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes to the Indian Education Committee effective July 1, 2021 and expiring June 30, 2026.** A roll call vote was taken and the motion carried 6-0. Ms. Keough was absent from voting.

**AND**

**M/S (Scoggin/Liebich): I move to reappoint Dr. Chris Meyer, representing the Coeur d'Alene Tribe to the Indian Education Committee effective July 1, 2021 and expiring June 30, 2026.** A roll call vote was taken and the motion carried 6-0. Ms. Keough was absent from voting.

**AND**

**M/S (Scoggin/Liebich): I move to reappoint Mr. Jesse LaSarte, representing the Couer d'Alene Tribe to the Indian Education Committee effective July 1, 2021 and expiring June 30, 2026.** A roll call vote was taken and the motion carried 6-0. Ms. Keough was absent from voting.

11. Accountability Oversight Committee Appointments

**BOARD ACTION**

**M/S (Scoggin/Liebich): I move to approve the reappointment of Laurie Lee Copmann to the Accountability Oversight Committee, representing school level administration, for a term of 2 years commencing July 1, 2021 and ending on June 30, 2023.** A roll call vote was taken and the motion carried 6-0. Ms. Keough was absent from voting.

**AND**

**M/S (Scoggin/Liebich): I move to approve the reappointment of Jodie Mills to the Accountability Oversight Committee, representing district level assessment and accountability, for a term of 2 years commencing July 1, 2021 and ending on June 30, 2023.** A roll call vote was taken and the motion carried 6-0. Ms. Keough was absent from voting.

12. Data Management Council Appointments

**BOARD ACTION**

**M/S (Scoggin/Liebich): I move to approve the reappointment of Dr. Cathleen McHugh to the Data Management Council as a representative from the Office of the State Board of Education for a term commencing July 1, 2021 and ending**

**June 30, 2023.** A roll call vote was taken and the motion carried 6-0. Ms. Keough was absent from voting.

**AND**

**M/S (Scoggin/Liebich):** I move to approve the reappointment of Dr. Grace Anderson to the Data Management Council as a representative of a public postsecondary institution for a term commencing July 1, 2021 and ending June 30, 2023. A roll call vote was taken and the motion carried 6-0. Ms. Keough was absent from voting.

**AND**

**M/S (Scoggin/Liebich):** I move to approve the reappointment of Tami Haft to the Data Management Council as a representative of public postsecondary institution registrar for a term commencing July 1, 2021 and ending June 30, 2023. A roll call vote was taken and the motion carried 6-0. Ms. Keough was absent from voting.

**AND**

**M/S (Scoggin/Liebich):** I move to approve the reappointment of Scott Thomson to the Data Management Council as a representative of a rural school district for a term commencing July 1, 2021 and ending June 30, 2023. A roll call vote was taken and the motion carried 6-0. Ms. Keough was absent from voting.

**AND**

**M/S (Scoggin/Liebich):** I move to approve the reappointment of Heather Luchte to the Data Management Council as a representative from the Division of Career Technical Education for a term commencing July 1, 2021 and ending June 30, 2023. A roll call vote was taken and the motion carried 6-0. Ms. Keough was absent from voting.

**AND**

**M/S (Scoggin/Liebich):** I move to approve the reappointment of Dr. Spencer Barzee to the Data Management Council as a representative of a public school district for a term commencing immediately and ending June 30, 2023. A roll call vote was taken and the motion carried 6-0. Ms. Keough was absent from voting.

**SDE**

13. Emergency Provisional Certificates

**BOARD ACTION**

**M/S (Scoggin/Liebich): I move to accept the recommendation of the Professional Standards Commission and to issue one-year emergency provisional certificates for Juana Lozano-Angel, Lisa Wilmore, Kristi Gerratt, Colton Orrino, Stefani Alvarado, Maggie Mayernik, John Adams, Adrian Wilkins, Tyler Cooper, Tyler Petty, Katherine Troumbley, Christian Shafer and Tammi Smith to teach the content area and grade ranges at the specified school districts and charter schools as provided herein for the 2020-21 school year. A roll call vote was taken and the motion carried 6-0. Ms. Keough was absent from voting.**

14. Northwest Nazarene University – Educator Preparation Program – Master of Social Work

### **BOARD ACTION**

**M/S (Scoggin/Liebich): I move to accept the recommendation of the Department of Education to approve Northwest Nazarene University’s Master in Social Work program as an approved educator preparation program leading to certification as a School Social Worker. A roll call vote was taken and the motion carried 6-0. Ms. Keough was absent from voting.**

Before beginning the Work Session, Supt. Ybarra asked for a moment of personal privilege to recognize that it was National Military Child Day, and thanked military families for their service.

### **WORK SESSION**

#### **PLANNING, POLICY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS**

##### **A. Institution and Agency Strategic Plan**

This item was provided in the agenda materials as an information item.

Board Member Clark introduced the item and discussed that each of the institution and agency strategic plans are included within the meeting agenda materials. She then asked the institutions and agencies to provide a brief overview of their plans, highlighting 2-3 points about what they feel is most important about their strategic plans moving forward. Board Member Clark also noted that the Board will approve strategic plans during the regular June Board Meeting, and that the Board should provide feedback to the institutions and agencies as soon as possible to allow time for revisions.

### ***University of Idaho***

Dr. Torrey Lawrence, Provost and Executive Vice President at the University of Idaho, highlighted three of the UI’s four strategic plan goals. Before discussing the goals, Dr. Lawrence noted that the UI was named the Number One Best Value Public University in the West by a recent U.S. News ranking. Goal 1 (Innovate) will focus on furthering research initiatives, which position UI to engage with state, federal, and industry partners. The UI will utilize \$3M annually from the utility modernization project to fund an additional 28 post-doctoral research employees and 40 PhD candidates per year.



Goal 2 (Engage) will focus on increasing direct Extension contacts and investing in the infrastructure of the 50+ Extension locations throughout the state, most of which are rural. Dr. Lawrence discussed that the Extension program has expanded academic program offerings at the county Extension sites, and has increased contacts over the last year with the use of Zoom and other virtual platforms. Goal 3 (Transform) will focus on recruitment and retention, and will utilize \$2.25M annually from the utility modernization project to fund scholarships in order to increase access to higher education. Dr. Lawrence discussed that the UI has continued to improve its 4-year graduation rate over the last several years, with the last four years rating above its 34% benchmark.

### ***Boise State University***

Dr. Marlene Tromp, Boise State University President, shared that BSU's strategic plan contains five goals, and discussed highlights of three of those goals. Goal 1 (Improve Educational Access and Student Success) will aim to enhance the comprehensive student experience with a focus on student success and post-graduate outcomes. BSU plans to create and enact a comprehensive, strategic enrollment and student success plan that will include components relating to supporting the whole student, recruitment, retention, graduation, and addressing equity gaps. Dr. Tromp also discussed that BSU plans to integrate career education and experiential learning opportunities into curriculum to improve career readiness and post-graduate outcomes.

Goal 2 (Innovation for Institutional Impact) will focus on expanding and implementing innovations to provide access to integrated high-quality teaching, service, research, and creative activities. Dr. Tromp discussed that BSU will focus on creating an enduring culture of innovation, building scalable university structure and aligning philanthropic and strategic investments that support innovation. Goal 5 (Trailblaze Programs and Partnerships) will focus on industry partnerships to enhance and foster pathbreaking interdisciplinary programs and activities that will transcend traditional fields of study and offer students new opportunities to grow, thrive, and contribute to the state. BSU will leverage existing partnerships while developing new opportunities with Idaho employers to address workforce, research, educational, and service needs.

Board Secretary Liebich inquired if it would be beneficial to have systemwide metrics in the institutions' strategic plans pertaining to Online Idaho. Board Member Hill discussed that that would be premature as Online Idaho is still under development, but noted that the institutions are commenting on what courses are currently being offered remotely. Board Member Clark inquired if this could be added as a measure next year, and Board Member Hill stated that it would be reasonable to add this measure next year as long as the correct data is being measured and reported for online courses across the state.

### ***Idaho State University***

Dr. Karen Appleby, Interim Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs at Idaho State University, discussed that this is the last year that the current strategic plan will be

executed, and that the new plan included within the agenda materials is currently being drafted for implementation in the summer of 2022. Dr. Appleby noted that there are five strategic goals as part of ISU's plan, and discussed progress toward three of those goals during her presentation.

In regard to Goal 1 (Grow Enrollment), Dr. Appleby discussed that undergraduate enrollment decreased by 20% in 2021, while graduate enrollment increased by 7%. ISU has implemented new recruiting and retention practices, emphasized dual enrollment, and fostered partnerships with community partners to meet regional workforce needs. Dr. Appleby then discussed Goal 2 (Strengthen Retention), and noted that ISU's current retention rate remained flat during the past year. ISU is implementing short- and long-term retention strategies, including changes to its math pathways initiative, encouragement for faculty to make meaningful connections with students within the first four weeks of class, and the reorganization of student advising. Lastly, Dr. Appleby discussed Goal 4 (Strengthen Communication, Transparency, and Inclusion), for which ISU has developed an Employee Engagement Taskforce to identify and improve upon areas of weakness in the areas of leadership, decision making, and communication.

Board Member Hill inquired about Dr. Appleby's comment about revisions to ISU's math pathways as a retention strategy, and asked if math is a barrier to graduation and retention. Dr. Appleby stated that she would gather this information and follow up with Board Member Hill in the future, and noted that students' math performance often correlates with student success and on-time graduation rates. Board Member Hill discussed that there is often emphasis placed on early literacy initiatives, and inquired if there should be emphasis on early math initiatives as well. Board Member Clark discussed the data that has stemmed from Complete College America, and agreed that there has been extensive effort in developing the math pathways but that perhaps there should be more focus on this data.

### ***Lewis-Clark State College***

Dr. Grace Anderson, Director of Institutional Research and Effectiveness at Lewis-Clark State College, discussed that LCSC's strategic plan contains four goals and provided background information for Goal 1 and Goal 2. In regard to Goal 1 (Strengthen and Optimize Instructional and Co-Curricular Programming), LCSC has increased online, evening, and weekend course offerings and certificates to assist with workforce readiness and improvement, and has placed greater emphasis on students participating in some form of applied or experiential learning. Dr. Anderson noted that while the past year presented difficult challenges as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, LCSC has still seen progress toward Goal 2 (Optimize Student Enrollment, Retention and Completion) in the form of increased online registration and the achievement of benchmark goals in the areas of remediation and credit accumulation.

### ***College of Eastern Idaho***

Lori Barber, Vice President of Academic and Student Affairs at the College of Eastern Idaho, discussed that CEI utilizes six strategic goals as it strives to serve student,

employer, and community needs. The six goals are: a well-educated citizenry, innovation and economic development, data-informed decision making, effective and efficient educational systems, student-centered, and cyber awareness. Ms. Barber shared that CEI has made exceptional progress toward its benchmarks for each of these goals, which are outlined within the meeting agenda materials.

Ms. Barber then discussed that CEI is employing a “futuring” technique to further its strategic plan, elaborating that the technique allows for planning for a possible future, a probable future, and a preferred future. CEI utilizes this technique by identifying and examining possible factors that will influence goals, such as workforce needs, economic drivers, political shifts, and demographic changes, and then planning possible outcomes and responses accordingly.

Board Member Hill noted that between FY2019 and FY2020, CEI’s certificates decreased but associate’s degrees increased significantly, and inquired what may have caused this shift. Ms. Barber responded that this is likely due to CEI transitioning from a technical college to a community college, with more students enrolling in transferrable associate degree programs. She also noted that career technical education programs experienced a decrease in enrollment as a result of the pandemic.

Board Secretary Liebich shared his appreciation for the way CEI has drafted its continuous improvement process within its strategic plan.

### ***College of Southern Idaho***

Chris Bragg, Dean of Institutional Effectiveness and Communication at the College of Southern Idaho, discussed that CSI began drafting its revised strategic plan last year. Throughout that process, President Dean Fisher and other campus leadership determined four goals, and then sought feedback and input from the campus community in the form of “Solution Summits”. Mr. Bragg then discussed two of CSI’s four strategic goals. Goal 1 (Cultivate Community Engagement) strives to enhance and expand community involvement and engagement, collaborate with K-12 and workforce partners, and provide adaptive responses to community needs. Goal 3 (Drive Student Success) aims to align quality and innovative education programs with student needs, workforce demands, and employment opportunities, as well as increase the rate of college completion by removing barrier, providing targeted support measures, creating multiple pathways to degree completion, and increasing flexible scheduling options.

Board Member Clark shared that she would like to learn more about the objectives and strategies CSI is utilizing to reach its goals. Mr. Bragg noted that he would follow up with her in the future.

### ***College of Western Idaho***

Bert Glandon, College of Western Idaho President, discussed that CWI began offering new course delivery modality options as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, and that these initiatives will positively impact CWI’s retention and completion rates. Based on

the overwhelmingly positive response to the additional course modalities, CWI will continue to offer hy-flex, hybrid, and online synchronous options for students.

President Glandon also discussed that CWI has made significant investments in the area of math remediation, and noted that there has been a 17% increase between FY2017-FY2020 in students who take a math remediation course and complete a credit-bearing course with a 'C' or between within one year. These investments include the implementation of co-requisite courses, reviewing and modifying math curriculum, investing in career technical education math curriculum, and running a math remediation pilot program in conjunction with a local high school.

Board Member Clark shared that she is interested in CWI's math remediation pilot program in conjunction with high school students, and asked if CWI could present more thoroughly on this item at the next Planning, Policy and Governmental Affairs Committee meeting. Board Member Liebich noted that each of the institutions has goals that stem from Complete College America data, and inquired if these goals are comparable for Idaho when they are based on other regions. Board Member Clark stated that these goals are in line with Idaho's performance in terms of completion rates and subject matter focus.

### ***North Idaho College***

Steve Kurtz, Interim Director of Planning and Effectiveness at North Idaho College, discussed that NIC's most important strategic goals focus on enrollment (including Dual Credit programs), retention, and completion. He noted that NIC's strategic plan is comprised of 5 goals, 17 objectives, and 36 data points, and provided more detailed information for two of the objectives. Goal 1, Objective A (Student Success, provide innovative, progressive, and student-centered programs and services) focuses on completion and matriculation performance measures. Goal 1, Objective C (Student Success, promote programs and service to enhance access and successful student transitions) focuses on performance measures pertaining to persistence, retention, and completion rates.

Mr. Kurtz also discussed several strategic initiatives that NIC is focused on as it works to achieve the goals outlined above, including improving the first-year student experience, implementing its Strategic Enrollment Plan (post-pandemic), and continually reviewing and adjusting its Mission Fulfillment Measures.

### ***Idaho Division of Career Technical Education***

Dr. Clay Long, Administrator for the Idaho Division of Career Technical Education, discussed that ICTE has three primary goals as it strives to ensure that Idaho has a well-prepared workforce. Dr. Long provided further information pertaining to two of ICTE's objectives under Goal 1 (Educational System Alignment). In regard to Goal 1, Objective A (technical assistance and support for CTE programs), ICTE strives to provide timely, accurate, and comprehensive support to CTE programs that meets the needs of administrators and instructors at both the secondary and postsecondary levels.

Board Vice President Scoggin inquired about the data points listed within the agenda materials, and Dr. Long explained that the numbers listed are the results of a satisfaction survey that was collected from administrators and instructors, with the highest possible score being 5.

In regard to Goal 1, Objective B (data-informed improvement), Dr. Long discussed that ICTE data management system has a completely different purpose and need than the current system provides. He added that ICTE needs a system that provides administrators and instructors with an overview of what the Division is examining in order to drive performance while also examining regional workforce needs.

### ***Idaho State Department of Education***

Tim McMurtrey, Deputy Superintendent of Operations for the State Department of Education, discussed the SDE's three major goals that are aligned with the Board's strategic plan. Goal 1 provides that Idaho students are ready for college and careers by fully implementing the Idaho Content Standards, providing pathways to success post high school, and expanding participation in the Idaho Mastery Education Network (IMEN). Goal 2 strives to hold education stakeholders accountable for student progress by increasing support to low-performing schools. Goal 3 pertains to the recruitment and retention teachers, and aims to reduce the percentage of Idaho teachers leaving the profession within their first five years of service.

Board Member Clark acknowledged that Mr. McMurtrey is preparing to retire and thanked him for his service to education in Idaho. Supt. Ybarra echoed these comments.

### ***Idaho Division of Vocational Rehabilitation***

Teresa Pitt, Planning and Evaluation Manager for the Idaho Division of Vocational Rehabilitation, discussed that there are three programs under IDVR and that its mission is to assist disabled individuals with employment and career opportunities while meeting employer needs. Ms. Pitt discussed two objectives from IDVR's strategic plan, beginning with Goal 1, Objective 1, which aims to expand, monitor, and improve pre-employment transition services to students with disabilities and similar services to youth. IDVR classifies students as individuals with disabilities between the ages of 14-21 that are enrolled in an educational program. Ms. Pitt discussed that IDVR experienced challenges in progressing toward this goal as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic because it was difficult for counselors and providers to provide in-person services to students. She added that IDVR continues to offer programming in a virtual format in order to reach as many students as possible.

Ms. Pitt also discussed Goal 2 (Improve Vocational Rehabilitation program efficiency continuous quality improvement activities), which primarily drives progress to meet or exceed targets for the first five Primary Performance Indicators established by the US Department of Education, Rehabilitation Services Administration.

### **Idaho Public Television**

Ron Pisaneschi, General Manager of Idaho Public Television, discussed that IPTV's strategic plan revolves around three key areas: enhancing local productions, increasing content and services, and enhancing educational partnerships and services. In regard to enhancing local productions, Mr. Pisaneschi discussed the addition of programs that are more time-intensive productions has decreased the number of programs produced, but noted that the number of awards IPTV productions have won has increased. He added that IPTV was nominated for 14 different Emmy awards this year.

In regard to increasing content and services, Mr. Pisaneschi discussed that IPTV strives to make programming available across the state wherever there is demand. He noted that viewers for traditional broadcasting have decreased, but viewers accessing IPTV programming through other modes such as Roku, online streaming, and smart phones has notably increased. Lastly, Mr. Pisaneschi discussed IPTV's goal to enhance educational partnerships and services, and noted that this area has grown substantially over the last year as a result of IPTV's efforts to provide educational programming opportunities during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Board Member Clark expressed her thanks to the institutions and agencies for providing succinct overviews of their strategic plans, and noted that there will be ten additional strategic plans for special programs that will be reviewed and approved by the Planning, Policy and Governmental Affairs Committee at its next meeting. Board President Critchfield echoed these comments and noted that strategic planning has been a focus for the Board for the last year.

At this time the Board recessed for 10 minutes, returning at 2:53pm (MT).

There were no additional questions or comments from the Board.

### **BUSINESS AFFAIRS AND HUMAN RESOURCES**

#### **B. Student Fee Opt-Out**

This item was provided in the agenda materials as an information item.

Board President Critchfield introduced the item and shared that there has been discussion in the Legislature in regard to how student fees are determined at Idaho's public institutions of higher education, what student fees pay for, and whether or not students have input when fees are determined. She noted that the discussion would focus on the transparency of the fee structure at the institutions, as well as the possibility of a student fee opt-out when students are not accessing certain services and activities. Board President Critchfield also shared her hope that the institutions could help guide the discussion and provide more information to further inform decisions regarding student fees in the future.

Board Member Hill discussed that the Board needs to fully understand students' role and the role of student governments in the determination and usage of fees. Board

Member Clark echoed these comments and noted that she is concerned about the ramifications of allowing students to opt out of certain fees, citing fees that fund scholarships as an example. Matt Freeman, Executive Director, discussed that the Board has the authority to approve tuition and fee requests, and added that students can make requests for fees but the Board still has the authority to deny those requests. Board President Critchfield noted that the majority of the discussions have centered around fees for clubs and activities.

Mr. Freeman noted that the Business Affairs and Human Resources committee has been collaborating to rewrite Board Policy V.R. – Establishment of Fees, even prior to the COVID-19 pandemic and the 2021 Legislative Session. Todd Kilburn, Chief Financial Officer, discussed that Board Policy V.R. has recently been rewritten to establish a consolidated mandatory fee that covers building maintenance, technology, and other essential campus operations.

Kevin Satterlee, Idaho State University President, echoed Mr. Kilburn's comments and discussed that many of the fees that are currently in place are necessary to support building maintenance and other campus operations necessities because state law does not allow institutions to utilize tuition revenue for these expenses. He suggested that the Board request that the institutions determine which fees should be mandatory and which fees could be made optional to address this discussion at the institutional level. Board President Critchfield agreed with this idea and asked the institutions to also create a plan to address the issue of transparency in regard to student fees.

Board Member Clark shared that there was discussion among the Business Affairs and Human Resources committee regarding items like marching band participation, and inquired if this is considered a course fee or an activity fee. Mark Heil, Vice President for Finance and Administration at Boise State University, discussed that a portion of the student activity fee is distributed to the marching band at BSU, and added that the consolidated fee simplifies this but does not aid in remedying the transparency issue. He noted that it is difficult to balance transparency and simplicity when it comes to student fees. Mr. Heil also discussed that certain activities would not be financially feasible without a mandatory fee, citing the transportation fee as an example, and noted that if students opted out of a fee then the fee would be much higher for students who chose to opt in.

In regard to transparency, Board President Critchfield discussed that the institutions wouldn't necessarily need to list out the exact amounts that are distributed to different activities and services, but rather would need to list out what the activities and services are. Board Member Hill discussed that he does not see a conflict between simplicity and transparency in regard to fees, noting that the consolidated mandatory fee encompasses expenses that support campus operations and that activity fees support student activities that are decided upon by student governments. He also noted that it would be difficult to decide which category certain expenses fall into. President

Satterlee added that institutions are able to fund activities with student fees, as long as they are all funded equally.

Dr. Marlene Tromp, Boise State University President, provided the metaphorical example of a person not wanting to pay for a road or medical services that they do not intend to use. She discussed that the institutions provide activities and students that are beneficial to students and enhance the overall student experience in order to drive student success, noting that these services are carefully selected based on data. She also provided the example of the Legislature, which determines how taxpayer money is spent, and compared their responsibilities to that of institution student governments determining student activity fees.

Dr. Cynthia Pemberton, Lewis-Clark State College President, discussed that the institutions could establish different categories of fees in order to distinguish what is essential to campus operations and student success. She discussed that the institutions should utilize common terms across the system to label fee categories in order to avoid confusion among students, and noted that each of the fee categories could be itemized. President Pemberton discussed that she is concerned with a possibility for students to opt out of fees, since the fees at LCSC are determined wholly by students. She provided the example of the “KinderCollege” childcare program at LCSC, noting that if students were to opt out of a fee that goes toward this program, there would not be enough revenue to fund the program and it would be shut down. She added that this would disproportionately affect women, single parents, and non-traditional students utilizing the program in order to guarantee childcare while they pursue their education. Board President Critchfield echoed President Pemberton’s comments regarding consistent naming at all institutions.

Board Secretary Liebich discussed that it is reasonable to allow students to opt out of certain fees, and noted that the institutions are already allowing this for services like housing and meal programs. He provided the example of the student recreation centers, noting that some students may prefer to exercise at a different facility. Supt. Ybarra echoed President Pemberton’s comments regarding consistent fees across all institutions, and noted that it would be helpful for fees to be divided into uniform categories well. President Satterlee echoed these comments as well, and noted that it will be critical for the institutions to determine which services and activities are essential to student success.

Scott Green, University of Idaho President, echoed Board Secretary Liebich’s comments regarding the student recreation centers, and asked Brian Foisy, Vice President for Finance and Administration at the UI, to provide cost information. Mr. Foisy discussed that the Recreation and Wellbeing Fee, housed within the activity fee, is currently \$86.20, and noted that this portion of the activity fee funds the recreation center’s debt service and operational cost. Mr. Foisy discussed that if the UI were to convert this structure to a user fee model, the cost per person would increase significantly and would likely be inaccessible for the average student.



Mr. Freeman discussed that the Board will need to differentiate between student services and clubs/organizations when discussing activity fees, noting that the Legislature is concerned with neutrality for the clubs and organizations. Board Secretary Liebich discussed that perhaps the Board does not need to focus on services if the Legislature is concerned with student clubs and organizations. Board Member Hill noted that the Board will need to be neutral in its viewpoint and examination of clubs and organizations. President Tromp echoed these comments and explained that the body dispersing the funds (student governments) must be viewpoint neutral, but the clubs and organizations, by nature, are not required to be viewpoint neutral.

President Pemberton discussed that it would be beneficial to report their findings to the Business Affairs and Human Resources Committee, and also proposed that the institutions seek feedback from students in regard to activity fees. Board President Critchfield discussed that it would be beneficial to gather input from students as well as stakeholders. Board President Critchfield discussed a timeline for the institutions to gather information and bring recommendations back to the Board at the August Board Meeting, or sooner if needed.

There were no additional questions or comments from the Board.

Board Vice President Scoggin left the meeting at 3:55pm (MT).

At this time the Board recessed for 10 minutes, returning at 4:05pm (MT).

## **BUSINESS AFFAIRS AND HUMAN RESOURCES**

1. Board Policy II. R. – Retirement Plan Committee – Second Reading

### **BOARD ACTION**

**M/S (Hill/Clark): I move to approve the second reading of Board Policy II.R. to allow multiple institutional representatives to serve on the Retirement Plans Committee as set forth in Attachment 1.** A roll call vote was taken and the motion carried 5-0. Ms. Keough and Mr. Scoggin were absent from voting.

Board Member Hill introduced the item and noted that there were no changes between the first and second readings of Board Policy II.R. The policy in its entirety is included within the meeting agenda materials.

There were no questions or comments from the Board.

2. Board Policy V. R. – Establishment of Fees – Second Reading

### **BOARD ACTION**

**M/S (Hill/Clark): I move to approve the second reading of Board Policy V.R. to amend the process through which fees are established as set forth in Attachment**

1. A roll call vote was taken and the motion carried 5-0. Ms. Keough and Mr. Scoggin were absent from voting.

Board Member Hill introduced the item and discussed that there were minor revisions to Board Policy V.R. between its first and second reading, which provided further clarification and technical language corrections. The policy in its entirety, including proposed amendments, can be found within the meeting agenda materials.

There were no questions or comments from the Board.

3. Intercollegiate Athletics – FY 2020 Revenue and Expenses Reports  
This item was provided in the agenda materials as an information item.

Board Member Hill introduced BAHR items 3, 4, and 5 together, and asked Todd Kilburn, Chief Financial Officer, to provide further background information. He also noted that Dr. Cynthia Pemberton, Lewis-Clark State College President, would provide an overview of gender equity in intercollegiate athletics.

Mr. Kilburn discussed that the National College Athletics Associations (NCAA) requires that Intercollegiate Athletics Revenue and Expenses Reports and Intercollegiate Athletics Compensation Reports are presented annually to the Board. He added that these reports are provided to the Board as an information item and typically do not entail lengthy discussion.

There were no questions or comments from the Board.

4. Intercollegiate Athletics – FY 2020 and 2021 Compensation Reports  
This item was provided in the agenda materials as an information item.

There were no questions or comments from the Board.

5. Intercollegiate Athletics – FY 2020 Gender Equity Reports

## **BOARD ACTION**

**M/S (Hill/Clark): I move to accept the Athletics Gender Equity Reports as presented by Boise State University, Idaho State University, Lewis-Clark State College, and the University of Idaho.** A roll call vote was taken and the motion carried 5-0. Ms. Keough and Mr. Scoggin were absent from voting.

As mentioned above, Board Member Hill introduced the item and asked Dr. Cynthia Pemberton, Lewis-Clark State College President, to discuss how the Board should think about gender equity in intercollegiate athletics. President Pemberton discussed that there are aspects of Title IX that pertain specifically to collegiate sports, and that it is difficult to address the “moving target” that is fulfilling obligations for gender equity for athletes, coaches, and support staff. There are three areas outlined in Title IX pertaining

specifically to collegiate athletics: accommodation of interests and abilities, substantial proportionality, and history and continuing practice of program expansion. President Pemberton noted that institutions must comply with one of these approaches, but are not required to comply with all of the areas. She also noted that most institutions run a deficit in at least one of these areas because it is an ever-changing obligation based on current demographics.

Pauline Thiros, Athletics Director for Idaho State University, discussed that ISU has made significant progress in the last few years in the treatment of student athletes. ISU has created a five-year gender equity plan, and Ms. Thiros discussed that one of the key challenges is responding to annual changes in enrollment. She noted that female enrollment continues to increase and, in turn, gender proportionality is difficult to maintain. Ms. Thiros also noted that ISU is focused on adding quality opportunities for female athletics, and that the only way to address inequity will be to add a new women's sport within the next few years in order to expand opportunities. ISU is doing well in regard to the other elements outlined by Title IX. Board Member Clark inquired about which women's sports might be financially feasible and provide the appropriate amount of competition, and Ms. Thiros discussed that ISU is still identifying the best path but considering opportunities such as beach volleyball, swimming, and wrestling.

Terry Gawlik, Athletics Director for the University of Idaho, echoed President Pemberton's comments and discussed that when trying to meet the proportionality guideline it is important to consider roster management to be able to keep up with the metaphorical "moving target". Board Member Liebich inquired at what point do NCAA or Title IX get involved, and Ms. Gawlik discussed that Title IX does not fall under NCAA purview but rather the Office of Civil Rights and regional regulations. She noted that it varies depending on the region, and discussed that some regions consider a 10% variance to be acceptable while others require an exact proportionality. President Pemberton added that the NCAA guidelines and Title IX regulations emphasize monitoring rather than penalties.

Jeramiah Dickey, Athletics Director for Boise State University, discussed that BSU has made progress similar to Lewis-Clark State College and the University of Idaho. He noted that BSU is not in a position to consider adding a women's sport at this time, but is planning to collaborate with a consultant to explore options and opportunities to pursue within the next several years.

President Pemberton discussed that Lewis-Clark State College has a Title IX plan in place and is currently pursuing Phase 1 of that plan. She added that LCSC will get to a point where it will be necessary to consider adding a women's sport, and that this is an ongoing discussion. LCSC is making progress in the areas outlined above.

Board Secretary Liebich inquired about the Board's role in overseeing the other areas that are governed by Title IX. President Pemberton discussed that Title IX is quite broad, but overall prohibits gender discrimination or harassment in academic programs,

including athletics. Board Member Clark discussed that the Board would likely become involved if an issue arose in one of the other areas. Jenifer Marcus, Deputy Attorney General, noted that the Board has the occasion to be involved if the issue pertains to a student conduct matter, and added that she was unsure if there is a section of Board Policy where those issues would rise to the level of the Board's jurisdiction. Tracie Bent, Chief Planning and Policy Officer discussed that Board Policy I.T. focuses on complaints and discrimination, and requires that each institution establish a broader Title IX policy.

There were no additional questions or comments from the Board.

#### 6. FY 2023 Budget Guidelines

##### **BOARD ACTION**

**M/S (Hill/Clark): I move to direct the college and universities to limit Fiscal Year 2023 budget line items requests to up to two (2) line items in priority order, the total value of which shall not exceed five percent (5%) of an institution's FY2022 total General Fund appropriation. Requests for occupancy costs for eligible space and faculty promotions will not count towards the two line item limit or the 5% cap.** A roll call vote was taken and the motion carried 5-0. Ms. Keough and Mr. Scoggin were absent from voting.

Board Member Hill introduced the item and asked Todd Kilburn, Chief Financial Officer, to provide background information. Mr. Kilburn discussed that each year, the Board provides guidance for the institutions in regard to what they may request for line items for the following year as they develop their budgets. He noted that the institutions' budgets come before the Board during the June Board Meeting and are then approved during the August Board Meeting prior to being submitted to the Governor's Office. Mr. Kilburn outlined that the Division of Financial Management provided guidance for agencies to operate as they did prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, and stated that agencies may request up to two line items that do not exceed 5% of the institution's FY2022 general fund appropriation.

There were no questions or comments from the Board.

#### 7. Idaho State University – College of Pharmacy, Leonard Hall Project, Planning and Design Phase

##### **BOARD ACTION**

**M/S (Hill/Clark): I move to approve the request by Idaho State University to implement the Planning and Design phases of the College of Pharmacy Leonard Hall renovations as outlined in Attachment 1 at a cost not to exceed \$2,000,000.** A roll call vote was taken and the motion carried 5-0. Ms. Keough and Mr. Scoggin were absent from voting.

Board Member Hill introduced the item and asked Glen Nelson, Vice President for Finance and Business Affairs at Idaho State University, to provide background information. Mr. Nelson stated that the renovations to the College of Pharmacy Leonard Hall are a totally gifted addition to the building, and noted that ISU is asking for approval to fund the planning and design phase of the project.

There were no questions or comments from the Board.

8. University of Idaho – Center for Agriculture, Food and the Environment Project, Construction Phase

#### **BOARD ACTION**

**M/S (Hill/Liebich): I move to approve the request by the University of Idaho for approval to bid and construct the proposed Idaho CAFE Research Dairy Facility as describe in the materials presented to the Board; and to authorize the University’s Vice President for Finance and Administration to execute all documents as are necessary to carry out the actions authorized hereby.** A roll call vote was taken and the motion carried 5-0. Ms. Keough and Mr. Scoggin were absent from voting.

Board Member Hill introduced the item and asked Brian Foisy, Vice President of Finance and Administration at the University of Idaho, to provide background information. Mr. Foisy discussed that, in December 2019, the Board approved the planning and design phase for the Center for Agriculture, Food and the Environment (CAFE) project, and noted that the UI is now asking for Board approval to begin the construction phase which is estimated to cost approximately \$22M. The CAFE facility will feature a state-of-the-art, 2,000 cow dairy as well as 492 acres of farmable land on which forage crops can be grown for feed and research crops could be grown for studies. Mr. Foisy noted that the number of cows initially present on the property may vary slightly in order for the UI to remain within the estimated \$25M budget, and that the UI has already received a direct appropriation of \$10M from the State and \$2M in donations. The remaining funds will come from the institution itself (\$10M) and potential future donations (\$3M).

Board Secretary Liebich inquired about contingencies for the project as they would relate to the inflated cost of materials. Mr. Foisy discussed that the UI has considered this and believes they have an appropriate contingency off approximately \$2M in place.

There were no questions or comments from the Board.

9. Systemwide – Joint Purchasing Agreement

#### **BOARD ACTION**

**M/S (Hill/Clark): As a member of the Board of Regents of the University of Idaho, I move that the Board of Regents of the University of Idaho authorize and**

**approve the execution of the Joint Purchasing Agreement.** A roll call vote was taken and the motion carried 5-0. Ms. Keough and Mr. Scoggin were absent from voting.

**AND**

**M/S (Liebich/Hill): As a member of the Board of Trustees of Boise State University, I move that the Board of Trustees of Boise State University authorize and approve the execution of the Joint Purchasing Agreement.** A roll call vote was taken and the motion carried 5-0. Ms. Keough and Mr. Scoggin were absent from voting.

**AND**

**M/S (Liebich/Hill): As a member of the Board of Trustees of Idaho State University, I move that the Board of Trustees of Idaho State University authorize and approve the execution of the Joint Purchasing Agreement.** A roll call vote was taken and the motion carried 5-0. Ms. Keough and Mr. Scoggin were absent from voting.

**AND**

**M/S (Liebich/Hill): As a member of the Board of Trustees of Lewis-Clark State College, I move that the Board of Trustees of Lewis-Clark State College authorize and approve the execution of the Joint Purchasing Agreement.** A roll call vote was taken and the motion carried 5-0. Ms. Keough and Mr. Scoggin were absent from voting.

Board Member Hill introduced the item and discussed that it is a systemwide request for the creation of a joint purchasing agreement for the four, four-year institutions. Todd Kilburn, Chief Financial Officer, discussed that the System Optimization Committee has been working to consider and implement the Huron Recommendations, and added that the collaboration among the institutions has been phenomenal. Chet Herbst, former Chief Financial Officer for the State Board of Education has served as the project manager as the System Optimization Committee has pursued this initiative. Mr. Kilburn outlined that the ultimate goal is for the institutions to consolidate purchasing efforts and policies to have the ability to make large purchases as a system.

Board Member Clark commended the institutions and the System Optimization Committee for their work on this initiative.

There were no additional questions or comments from the Board.

#### 10. Lewis-Clark State College – ERP Contract

## **BOARD ACTION**

**M/S (Hill/Clark):** I move to approve the request by Lewis-Clark State College to enter into a contract with Ellucian for \$1,601,992 over a term of five years as set forth in Attachment 1. A roll call vote was taken and the motion carried 5-0. Ms. Keough and Mr. Scoggin were absent from voting.

Board Member Hill introduced the item and discussed that the proposed contract is for a five-year term. He noted that one of the Board's goals is ERP convergence, and that this contract is a step in that direction. Dr. Julie Crea, Vice President for Finance and Administration at Lewis-Clark State College, shared that LCSC is seeking to enter a contract with Ellucian, LCSC's existing ERP, that would allow for over \$150,000 in savings and position the institution for collaboration on a systemwide ERP initiative in the future.

There were no questions or comments from the Board.

The Board recessed for the evening at 4:54pm (MT).

### **Thursday, April 22, 2021, 9:00am (MT)**

*Board President Critchfield was testifying before the House Education Committee when the Board reconvened on Thursday, April 22, 2021. Board Vice President Scoggin called the meeting to order at 9:00am and presided over the meeting until Board President Critchfield returned.*

## **OPEN FORUM**

There were no participants for the Open Forum.

## **STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION**

### **1. Developments in K-12 Education**

This item was provided in the agenda materials as an information item.

Superintendent Ybarra began her update by discussing that HB175, her bill ensuring in-person instruction where possible, was approved unanimously by the Senate and would be signed by Governor Little later that afternoon. She noted that teachers and families across the state support this bill, and emphasized the importance of having in-person instruction available in addition to virtual or hybrid instruction. Supt. Ybarra also discussed that HB221, which would have allowed local education agencies to issue teacher certifications, did not pass through both legislative bodies. She noted that the Emergency Provisional Certificates that are brought before the Board will still allow local education agencies to have the necessary staff to continue operations. Supt. Ybarra added that several K-12 appropriations bills were being considered by the Legislature that day.

Supt. Ybarra then discussed her annual post-legislative tour, which will be held in May. Supt. Ybarra noted that the tour provides an opportunity for her to travel across the

state to visit local education agencies and provide updates following the legislative session each year.

In regard to assessments, Supt. Ybarra shared that the spring assessment windows for the ACCESS Assessment for English Language Learners and the Idaho Standards Achievement Test (ISAT) are currently open and will close in May. She also noted that the science portion of the ISAT will be a field test this year in order to determine areas of the assessment where improvement is needed. The primary SAT School Day for high school juniors was held on April 13, 2021, and Supt. Ybarra shared that there were approximately 22,000 students that pre-registered to participate. The assessment window for the Idaho Reading Indicator (IRI) opens May 3 and closes May 28. Supt. Ybarra added that remote testing options are available for the aforementioned assessments, although it is anticipated that the majority of students will participate in the assessments in person.

Supt. Ybarra discussed that the State Department of Education would hold a Literacy Summit on May 4, 2021 to provide professional development pertaining to “The Science of Reading” as well as strategies for K-3 teachers to encourage early literacy. Approximately 750 participants were pre-registered for the summit.

Lastly, Supt. Ybarra discussed the State Department of Education’s efforts to provide professional development for Idaho’s teachers, administrators, and staff. The SDE has collaborated with Idaho’s public institutions and other industry partners to provide intensive, high-quality professional development opportunities that will aid in driving student learning in a variety of subject matter areas. The SDE also continues to provide webinars, mentorship, and other resources for teachers.

There were no questions or comments from the Board.

## 2. Federal Coronavirus Relief Funding Update

This item was provided in the agenda materials as an information item.

Supt. Ybarra introduced the item and asked Karen Seay, Director of Federal Programs for the State Department of Education, to provide an update on the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) I funds, the ESSER II funds, and the American Rescue Plan (ARP) funds, which are also referred to as ESSER III. Supt Ybarra noted that the State Department of Education has implemented a Grant Application System (GRA) in order to provide districts with the option for a weekly draw down of funds and greater accountability for reporting purposes.

Supt. Ybarra noted that the information provided in the agenda materials is slightly out-of-date since the data is constantly changing. Ms. Seay explained the different categories listed within the agenda materials, emphasizing the expenditure of the CARES Act ESSER I discretionary/flow-through funds and noting that 41 local



education agencies (LEAs) have expended 100% of their allocation and an additional 20 LEAs have an additional \$10,000 to draw down. Once LEAs draw down the entirety of their ESSER I allocation, they are able to draw down from their ESSER II and ESSER III funds. Ms. Seay discussed that updated data pertaining to the different funds, reimbursements by category, and LEA expenditures by grant are published on the SDE website every Monday afternoon.

Ms. Seay discussed that the Joint Finance-Appropriations Committee has authorized spending for the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations (CRRSA) Act in two installments, one in FY2021 and one for FY2022 beginning July 1, 2021. These spending plans still need to be approved by both legislative bodies as well as the Governor. Ms. Seay also discussed the ARP ESSER III funds, with approximately \$4.4M appropriated to Idaho. Spending authority has not yet been approved for these funds.

Idaho was also awarded funds under CRRSA for Emergency Assistance to Non-Public Schools (EANS), which will be administered by the State Education Agency (the Board), and the Board has delegated administration of the program to Supt. Ybarra. EANS funds were also awarded as part of the ARP, and states will be able to apply for these funds beginning May 21, 2021.

Board Secretary Liebich inquired about the timeline for the distribution plan for the CRRSA EANS funds. Supt. Ybarra stated that the plan is due by June 7, and Board Member Clark noted that the guidelines for the funds are prescriptive as to how the funds must be spent. Ms. Seay added that the SDE is currently working with stakeholders to gather feedback as the plan is drafted. Supt. Ybarra stated that the SDE received information about the plan the previous day, and that more information would be provided to the Board as it becomes available. Board Member Clark expressed concern that administration of these funds is delegated to the State Education Agency (the Board), but the Board will not be involved in drafting the plan. Supt. Ybarra stated that the SDE will collaborate with the Board as the plan is drafted. Ms. Seay noted that the guidelines designate the Chief State School Officer (Supt. Ybarra) as the party responsible for the plan.

Board Secretary Liebich inquired about the spending flexibility for the ESSER II and ESSER III funds, and Supt. Ybarra discussed that there is a little more spending flexibility with these funds but they must still be used for the designated categories. She also noted that the distribution formula will be consistent with the formula that was used for ESSER I, with allocations based on LEAs' Title I proportions. Ms. Seay echoed these comments.

There were no additional questions or comments from the Board.

### 3. Nonpublic Educator Preparation Programs

This item was provided in the agenda materials as an information item.

Supt. Ybarra introduced the item and discussed that the intent of nonpublic educator preparation programs is to meet guidelines set by the Council for Accreditation for Education Preparation (CAEP). Due to a change in Idaho Code, Section 33-127a, effective July 2020, nonpublic educator preparation programs may now opt out of the guideline to meet CAEP requirements. Supt. Ybarra noted that Brigham Young University and the College of Idaho have indicated that they do not wish to be held to CAEP standards, and added that Northwest Nazarene University and Brigham Young University-Idaho will continue to seek certification through CAEP.

There were no questions or comments from the Board.

#### 4. ESSA Consolidated State Plan Waiver

##### **BOARD ACTION**

***M/S (/): I move to approve the waiver request of provisions in the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (ESEA) as amended by the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) as provided in Attachment 1 and authorize the State Superintendent of Public Instruction to submit the waiver request on behalf of the State Board of Education.***

*The Board did not take action on this item.*

Supt. Ybarra introduced the item and discussed that it is a follow-up to the action that the Board took during the January 4, 2021 Special Board Meeting to approve the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) accountability addendum to modify identifications and calculations for improvement schools. The US Department of Education has since released a new template following this Board action, and the Board must act again to approve the new template. Supt. Ybarra noted that the purpose of the waiver is to assist local education agencies with identifying achievement gaps and providing adequate support for students. Supt. Ybarra asked Kevin Whitman, Director of Assessment and Accountability for the State Department of Education, to provide further background information.

Mr. Whitman echoed Supt. Ybarra's comments and discussed the subsequent changes to the waiver following the Board's action in January. Mr. Whitman discussed that in the initial addendum, the SDE had planned to move long-term goal timelines out by one year due to the data disruption caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, report normal metrics wherever possible, and measure a growth over a span of two years instead of year-over-year. The SDE submitted the initial waiver to the US Department of Education on February 19, 2021 and received new guidance on February 22, 2021.

Mr. Whitman discussed that the SDE has drafted a new waiver that is consistent with the addendum that the Board previously approved, with the addition of several modifications in alignment with the new guidance from the US Department of Education. In addition to the items mentioned above, the new waiver would provide that Idaho will

make publicly available chronic absenteeism data and data pertaining to student and teacher access to technology devices and high-speed internet. Additionally, the waiver denotes that any school that is identified for comprehensive, targeted, or additional targeted support and improvement during the 2019-2020 academic year will maintain that identification status for the 2021-2022 academic year, implement its support and improvement plan, and receive appropriate supports and interventions. Idaho will also identify comprehensive, targeted, and additional targeted support and improvement schools using data from the 2021-2022 school year in the fall of 2022 to ensure school identification resumes as quickly as possible.

Board President Critchfield joined the meeting at 9:50am (MT).

Board Member Clark inquired whether or not the Board would need to waive its Administrative Rule prior to approving the waiver request. Tracie Bent, Chief Planning and Policy Officer, discussed that a section of the Board's Administrative Rule conflicts with the requirements outlined in the waiver. The Board opted to not take action on this item and will convene for a Special Meeting to waive the Administrative Rule prior to taking action to approve the waiver.

There were no additional questions or comments from the Board.

#### 5. Biliteracy Diploma – Idaho Seal of Biliteracy

#### **BOARD ACTION**

**M/S (Ybarra/Scoggin): I move to accept the recommendations of the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Language (ACTFL) and approve the assessments and proficiency scores in Attachment 1 through Attachment 5 to be used in awarding the state biliteracy seal on a high school diploma.** A roll call vote was taken and the motion carried 6-0. Ms. Keough was absent from voting.

Supt. Ybarra introduced the item and discussed that there have been many requests to provide a biliteracy diploma, and noted that the 2020 Legislature enacted a biliteracy diploma. The statute states that students may be awarded the seal of biliteracy on their diploma if they meet State graduation requirements and meet proficiency benchmarks on assessments as defined by the Board. Districts are already utilizing national and international assessments for dual immersion programs and many of these assessments align to the American Council of Teaching Foreign Language (ACTFL), and Board approval of this action would allow districts to continue to utilize the processes they already have in place.

There were no questions or comments from the Board.

#### 6. Curricular Materials Selection Committee Appointments

**BOARD ACTION**

**M/S (Ybarra/Clark): I move to appoint Ethan Sims to the Curricular Materials Selection Committee for a five-year term, effective May 1, 2021 and ending April 30, 2026, representing non-public educators or school board trustee members. A roll call vote was taken and the motion carried the motion carried 6-0. Ms. Keough was absent from voting.**

Supt. Ybarra introduced the item and discussed that the Curricular Materials Selection Committee reviews curriculum to ensure it aligns with standards and equity as materials are distributed and available to local education agencies. The requirements for the Curricular Materials Selection Committee membership and duties are outlined in Section 33-118, Idaho Code.

There were no questions or comments from the Board.

7. Professional Standards Commission Appointments

**BOARD ACTION**

**M/S (Ybarra/Liebich): I move to appoint Dr. Lori Sanchez of Northwest Nazarene University to the Professional Standards Commission for a three-year term beginning July 1, 2021 and ending June 30, 2024, representing private higher education/teacher education. A roll call vote was taken and the motion carried 6-0. Ms. Keough was absent from voting.**

**AND**

**M/S (Ybarra/Liebich): I move to appoint Tate Castleton of Bonneville School District to the Professional Standards Commission for a three-year term beginning July 1, 2021 and ending June 30, 2024, representing elementary principals. A roll call vote was taken and the motion carried 6-0. Ms. Keough was absent from voting.**

**AND**

**M/S (Ybarra/Liebich): I move to appoint Katie Horner of Murtaugh School District to the Professional Standards Commission for a three-year term beginning July 1, 2021, and ending June 30, 2024, representing certificated classroom teachers. A roll call vote was taken and the motion carried 6-0. Ms. Keough was absent from voting.**

**AND**

**M/S (Ybarra/Liebich): I move to appoint Angela Gillman of Idaho Falls School District to the Professional Standards Commission for a three-year term beginning July 1, 2021, and ending June 30, 2024, representing certificated**

**classroom teachers.** A roll call vote was taken and the motion carried 6-0. Ms. Keough was absent from voting.

Supt. Ybarra introduced the item and discussed that the requirements for the membership and duties of the Professional Standards Commission are outlined in Section 33-1252, Idaho Code. She noted that Kent Patterson, who was nominated to serve on the Professional Standards Commission representing elementary principals, was found to be ineligible. Tate Castleton, another nominee to represent elementary principals, will be appointed in his place. The appointees' resumes are included within the meeting agenda materials.

Board President Critchfield expressed her thanks for the individuals that serve as volunteers on the Curriculum Materials Selection Committee and the Professional Standards Commission.

There were no additional questions from the Board.

8. Clark County School District, No. 161 – Out-of-State Tuition Waiver

**BOARD ACTION**

**M/S (Ybarra/Clark): I move to approve the request by Clark County School District No. 161 to waive the tuition rate charge for the children of one of its teachers for the 2021-2022 through 2024-2025 school years, subject to annual review by the Clark County School District Board of Trustees.** A roll call vote was taken and the motion carried 6-0. Ms. Keough was absent from voting.

Supt. Ybarra introduced the item and discussed that, if approved, the waiver would waive tuition for two children of an elementary school teacher in Clark County School District No. 161. The teacher resides in Monida, Montana, and commutes to Dubois, Idaho where she teaches at Lindy Ross Elementary School. Supt. Ybarra discussed that the financial and logistical burden of schooling her children in Montana would result in the teacher's inability to continue to work in the Clark County School District. The waiver is permissible through Sections 33-1401 through 33-1405, Idaho Code.

There were no questions or comments from the Board.

Supt. Ybarra took a moment of personal privilege to express her thanks for her Deputy Superintendent of Operations, Tim McMurtrey, as he prepares to retire.

At this time the Board recessed for 15 minutes, returning at 10:25am (MST).

**INSTRUCTION, RESEARCH AND STUDENT AFFAIRS**

1. Program Progress Report

This item was provided in the agenda materials as an information item.

Board Secretary Liebich introduced the item and noted that a Program Progress Report is included within the meeting agenda materials. He discussed that any time an institution wants to add or discontinue a program, they submit a request to the Instruction, Research and Student Affairs committee, and the IRSA committee brings it before the Board. The IRSA committee also continually reviews programs at the institution. Board Secretary Liebich discussed that the IRSA committee reviewed eight programs during the most recent cycle, and noted that only two of those programs are not meeting projections due to extraordinary circumstances. Five of the programs are exceeding expectations. The remaining program did not meet enrollment projections, but denoted that overall enrollment has remained consistent throughout the COVID-19 pandemic.

There were no questions or comments from the Board.

2. Board Policy III.Q. – Admission Standards – First Reading

**BOARD ACTION**

**M/S (Liebich/Hill): I move to approve the first reading of proposed amendments to Board Policy III.Q. Admission Standards as presented in Attachment 1.** A roll call vote was taken and the motion carried 6-0. Ms. Keough was absent from voting.

**AND**

**M/S (Liebich/Scoggin): I move to approve the first reading of Board Policy III.O. Course Placement, repealing the policy in its entirety.** A roll call vote was taken and the motion carried 6-0. Ms. Keough was absent from voting.

Board Secretary Liebich introduced the item and discussed that the proposed amendments to Board Policy III.Q. would eliminate the college entrance exam as a minimum admissions requirement for Idaho's four, four-year public institutions of higher education. The institutions may still require a college entrance exam as a minimum admissions requirement, but the amendment would remove the exam as a Board requirement. Dr. TJ Bliss, Chief Academic Officer, discussed that the Board currently has a waiver in place for Board Policy III.Q.a. that was passed as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, effectively suspending the requirement for a college entrance exam score as a minimum admissions requirement.

Dr. Bliss also discussed that this amendment would appeal Board Policy III.O. – Course Placement in its entirety and add that language to Board Policy III.Q. Board Policy III.O. is a single paragraph that asked that the institutions send their course placement policies to the Board, but does not require that the institutions have such policies in place. Dr. Bliss noted that the Council on Academic Affairs and Programs did not see value in Board Policy III.O. as a stand-alone policy and supports the migration of this language to Board Policy III.Q.

Board Vice President Scoggin inquired if there has been any indication of whether the institutions intend to continue to require a college entrance exam as a minimum admissions requirement. Dr. Bliss noted that Boise State University and Idaho State University will remove the college entrance exam score as a minimum admissions requirement, and added that Lewis-Clark State College and the University of Idaho have not yet announced their intentions. Dr. Bliss also stated that this item would set the stage for the remaining institutions to determine what their short- and long-term plans are in regard to college entrance examines as a minimum admissions requirement.

Board Member Clark inquired if there is benefit to having consistent, systemwide minimum admissions requirements. Board Vice President Scoggin inquired if the Direct Admissions program is based on college entrance exam scores. Matt Freeman, Executive Director, discussed that up until this year, the Direct Admissions program has utilized fifth semester grade point average as a “cut score”, and that there are still ongoing discussions to determine alternatives.

Scott Green, University of Idaho President, reiterated that UI has waived the college entrance exam score as a minimum admissions requirement, and added that each institution has its own admissions requirements. Dr. Bliss discussed that he anticipates that the institutions will not require the college entrance exam as a minimum admissions requirement, but will perhaps use those scores for scholarship qualification and course placement. Board Member Hill noted that it would still be advisable for Idaho students to take a college entrance exam if they wish to attend a private Idaho institution or an out-of-state institution.

There were no additional questions or comments from the Board.

3. Board Policy III.U. – Textbook and Instructional Material Affordability – First Reading

#### **BOARD ACTION**

**M/S (Liebich/Scoggin): I move to approve the first reading of Board Policy III.U., Instructional Material Access and Affordability, as submitted in Attachment 1.** A roll call vote was taken and the motion carried 6-0. Ms. Keough was absent from voting.

Board Secretary Liebich introduced the item and noted that the Board has often discussed textbook and material costs as a barrier to access and affordability for Idaho students. The Board adopted Board Policy III.U. in October 2019 to establish minimum standards for textbook affordability at Idaho’s four-year public institutions. Upon adoption, the policy required institutions to implement plans for meeting the minimum requirements prior to the beginning of the 2021-2022 academic year, and positioned Open Educational Resources (OER) as the primary element of the institutions’ textbook affordability plans.

Dr. TJ Bliss, Chief Academic Officer, discussed that the proposed revisions to the policy, which have stemmed from institutional concerns, include:

- Addition of several important terms and definitions relevant to access and affordability of instructional materials
- Creation of a required set of elements that institutions must include in their plans to increase access and affordability of instructional materials in their own contexts
- Creation of an optional set of elements that institutions might consider as part of their plans
- Establishment of June 2022 as a deadline for institutions to develop their plans
- Establishment of an annual reporting requirement to ensure the Board is apprised of the implementation and outcomes of each plan
- A change of the title of the policy to “Instructional Materials Access and Affordability” to reflect the broader scope of the new policy language

These programs are supported by funding allocated by the Legislature for OER initiatives, including a \$50,000 allocation in FY2020 for supporting faculty to develop OER textbooks and a \$1M allocation for FY2022 for Zero Textbook Cost Degrees in the community colleges. Board Member Clark inquired if these allocations also support professional development for instructors who will utilize OER in their classes. Dr. Bliss discussed that there will be significant support both for instructors who will develop these resources and those who will utilize them in their curriculums.

Board Vice President Scoggin shared his support for the initiative. Matt Freeman, Executive Director, noted that the Board has benefited from having two of the nation’s leading OER experts on staff – Dr. Bliss and Dr. Jonathan Lashley, Associate Chief Academic Officer.

There were no additional questions or comments from the Board.

#### 4. Board Policy III.Z. – Delivery of Postsecondary Programs – Second Reading

### **BOARD ACTION**

**M/S (Liebich/Clark): I move to approve the second reading of proposed amendments to Board Policy III. Z. Planning and Delivery of Postsecondary Education Programs and Courses as submitted in Attachment 1.** A roll call vote was taken and the motion carried 6-0. Ms. Keough was absent from voting.

Board Secretary Liebich introduced the item and noted that Board Policy III.Z was created to promote collaboration among the institutions and ensure that there was not duplication of efforts in terms of region-specific programming. Dr. TJ Bliss, Chief Academic Officer, noted that there were no changes between the first and second readings of the policy. The policy in its entirety, including proposed amendments, is included within the meeting agenda materials.



There were no additional questions or comments from the Board.

5. Boise State University – Master of Science in Cybersecurity

**BOARD ACTION**

**M/S (Liebich/Hill): I move to approve the request by Boise State University to create a Master of Science in Cybersecurity, as presented in Attachment 1.** A roll call vote was taken and the motion carried 6-0. Ms. Keough and Mrs. Atchley were absent from voting.

Board Secretary Liebich introduced the item and discussed that it is a request from Boise State University to establish a Master of Science in Cybersecurity, and noted that the program request has been reviewed by the IRSA committee. He outlined that \$1M was allocated by the 2020 Legislature for a statewide cybersecurity initiative, and added that Dr. Michael Haney, Assistant Professor of Computer Science at the University of Idaho and program coordinator for the statewide cybersecurity initiative, is consulted whenever a cybersecurity program is proposed to ensure that all programs fit within the goals of the initiative as a whole.

Dr. Tony Roark, Interim Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs at Boise State University, discussed that the goal of the program is to create an environment that is rich in opportunities to allow students to enter into the high-demand cyber-workplace. Dr. Zeynep Hansen, Vice Provost at Boise State University, discussed that BSU's proposal would create an interdisciplinary master's degree to include the focus areas of computer analysis, cryptanalysis and signals analysis, and management. She noted that faculty from the College of Engineering, the College of Arts and Sciences, and the College of Business will teach courses for the program.

Board Vice President Scoggin and Board Member Hill expressed their support for the program.

There were no additional questions or comments from the Board.

6. Freedom of Expression and Responsibility

This item was provided in the agenda materials as an information item.

Board Secretary Liebich introduced the item and discussed that it stems from ongoing legislative discussions regarding freedom of expression and the Board's responsibility in this matter. He noted that he expected the majority of the conversations during the legislative session to focus on the effects of COVID-19 pandemic and the subsequent learning loss, but the conversation has focused mainly on the climate and culture in K-12 classrooms and at the institutions of higher education. He cited several pieces of legislation that were not supported because of skepticism that critical race theory and social justice initiatives were being taught, including a Pre-K grant, the higher education budget, and an allocation that was intended to assist with professional development.

Board Secretary Liebich also discussed that the local boards of trustees and the institutions have policies and procedures in place if such situations arise, and shared his belief that this is not a systemic issue. He also voiced his concerns that the legislation that has been introduced to mitigate these issues is in opposition of free speech and academic freedom, and cited Board Policy III.B. and Board Policy III.P. which protect and regulate free speech, academic freedom, and discrimination.

Board Secretary Liebich discussed that the Board should take preemptive action to help drive the conversation. He suggested that the Board update Board Policy III.B. and Board Policy III.P., incorporating the Chicago Principles (provided within the agenda materials) as well as feedback from the institutions. He also suggested that the Board establish a method for measuring the campus climates to aid in determining the response to concerns that may arise.

Board President Critchfield echoed Board Secretary Liebich's comments and added that she has heard feedback stating that the Board is not active enough in mitigating the situation. She stated that the Board should evaluate the timeliness and depth in which they address concerns surrounding freedom of expression and academic responsibility. Board Vice President Scoggin also echoed Board Secretary Liebich's comments and shared his own experience with education, discussing that his education and educational experiences helped to broaden his perspective and open his mind to different points of view. He added that it is important to preserve freedom of expression for current and future students.

Board Member Clark discussed the concept of freedom of expression and academic responsibility from a K-12 perspective, noting that she has spent 47 years working in the K-12 system and has not seen any evidence of indoctrination. She discussed that teachers take the standards of teaching very seriously and are not inclined to teach social justice or critical race theory agendas. Board Member Clark also discussed that the Board will not be able to achieve any of its strategic plan goals if students do not come to our K-12 schools and institutions ready to learn, and that schools have methods to address these situations if they should arise. She emphasized that the Board should focus instead on compensating for unfinished learning as a result of the pandemic.

Board Member Hill discussed that the Board, like other State Boards, has the obligation to uphold freedom of expression, and that the term "freedom of expression" can be misconstrued. He noted that the focus should be on the Board's policies that protect students' freedom of expression and prohibit discrimination, and that the Board should consider what would constitute meaningful data to determine whether or not these policies are effective. Board Member Hill also echoed Board Secretary Liebich, Board Vice President Scoggin, and Board Member Clark's comments. Supt. Ybarra also echoed these comments and discussed that districts already have policies and procedures in place that allow for students to opt out of instruction that goes against their personal beliefs.

Board Vice President Scoggin discussed that Idaho's institutions attract students from all 50 states and from around the world, and those students pay significantly more than in-state students. He discussed the importance of maintaining that portion of Idaho's students by protecting students' freedom of expression. Board President Critchfield noted that the conversation aimed to allow the Board to consider discussions that have occurred in the Legislature and logical next steps.

Dr. Cynthia Pemberton, Lewis-Clark State College President, echoed Board Member Hill's comments and stated that LCSC has policies and processes in place if a student feels uncomfortable. She also shared a semantic differential scale that outlined student responses to several questions from a recent campus climate survey. Dr. Pemberton noted that legislative concerns have been about students and individual experiences, and explained that the survey results show that students are content with the overall campus climate. She also discussed that all of LCSC's course evaluations ask about the individual student experience with instructors, curriculum, and overall academic involvement.

Kevin Satterlee, Idaho State University President, noted the importance of freedom of speech and that the ability to discuss and debate any issue on a campus is the purpose of higher education. He discussed that the real issue is combating misinformation that is being spread, and echoed President Pemberton's comments. Scott Green, University of Idaho President echoed President Satterlee's comments.

Board Secretary Liebich discussed that he does not have concerns regarding this issue in K-12, since districts have policies in place to mitigate such situations should they arise. He also noted that Lieutenant Governor McGeachin has established a taskforce to further investigate this issue, and that the Board will take action based on the findings of that report. In regard to higher education, in addition to revising Board Policy III.P. and Board Policy III.B., he suggested engaging the President's Leadership Council and the Instruction, Research and Student Affairs Committee to determine next steps. Board Member Clark agreed with this strategy, and added that the Board should make a statement of support for the K-12 system and an explanation of why this is not a concern. Board President Critchfield echoed Board Secretary Liebich's comments and added that the Board should determine a consistent communication strategy for discussing these matters. Supt. Ybarra reiterated her earlier comments about the policies that are in place in the K-12 system.

Matt Freeman, Executive Director, inquired how the efforts should be distributed between the President's Leadership Council and the Instruction, Research and Student Affairs. Board Secretary Liebich stated that it would be beneficial to have an initial conversation with the President's Leadership Council and then determine the best path forward. He also noted that the Board will be represented on Lieutenant Governor McGeachin's taskforce and will be able to quickly respond to concerns, should they arise.

Ron Pisaneschi, General Manager of Idaho Public Television, noted that IPTV's budget was questioned based on the same topics, and discussed that IPTV also has policies and procedures in place to address potential concerns.

There were no additional questions or comments from the Board.

## **PLANNING, POLICY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS**

### **1. University of Idaho – Annual Report**

This item was provided in the agenda materials as an information item.

Scott Green, University of Idaho President, presented the UI's annual report. He began his update by discussing highlights from the UI's response to the COVID-19 pandemic, which included access to in-person classes during the Fall 2020 and Spring 2021 semesters. The UI is consistently testing all students based on the Moscow campus, and the Moscow public health department contact tracing staff stated that no cases originated on the campus. President Green also discussed that the UI has partnered with Gritman Medical Center to distribute vaccines to students, faculty, and staff.

President Green then discussed enrollment and budget highlights. He noted that enrollment decreased by 3% in the Fall of 2020, while graduate student enrollment increased by 4%. Applications and admissions for the Fall of 2021 are already above average and President Green shared that he feels optimistic about the UI's admissions and enrollment growth in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic. One of President Green's first priorities after he became UI's President was to "right size" the university's budget, and he shared that the UI has seen marked improvement for FY2020 from FY2019 and that the UI ended FY2020 with a small operating surplus. The UI also completed a program prioritization process, in which it eliminated the material sciences program and several master's degree options, and combined several departments in order to maximize efforts and overall efficiency. The UI is implementing a new hybrid budget model to streamline resource allocation, which will reward programs for increases in enrollment, student persistence, and collaboration. President Green also shared about the UI's fundraising efforts in FY2020, noting that over \$49M was donated by 17,852 donors; of that amount \$22.17M is designated for students, \$16.5M is designated for academic and other programs, \$6.4M is designated for faculty and research support, and \$4.7M is designated for facilities.

President Green discussed several current and upcoming construction projects that the UI will take on in 2020-2021, including the Idaho Central Credit Union Arena, the Center for Agriculture, Food, and the Environment (CAFE), a seed potato germplasm facility, a meat sciences center, and the installation of rooftop solar panels on the Integrated Research and Innovation Center (IRIC).

President Green proudly shared that the UI was recently named the Number One Best Value Public University in the West by U.S. News & World Report. The UI currently has 10,791 students enrolled, 71% of which are Idaho residents and 41% of which are the

first in their family to attend college. In the last several years, the UI has implemented strategies to meet the four metrics set by Complete College America's "Game Changers" initiative aimed at closing institutional performance gaps, including aligning the college experience to each student's goals for the future, addressing student needs and removing barriers to academic success through various programs, helping students meeting critical early milestones that put them on track to graduate, and building course road maps that make the path to a degree clear.

Board Secretary Liebich inquired about the UI's program prioritization efforts and the elimination of approximately 180 full-time positions, and asked what the morale on campus is like in the wake of the pandemic. President Green shared that morale is improving as the effects of the pandemic recede.

President Green concluded his report by thanking the Board and Board Staff for their assistance and support throughout the last year.

There were no additional questions or comments from the Board.

## 2. Idaho Digital Learning Academy – Annual Report

This item was provided in the agenda materials as an information item.

Dr. Cheryl Charlton, Superintendent of the Idaho Digital Learning Academy, and several of her staff members provided an update on IDLA's efforts in the areas of support services, course offerings, student profiles and growth, statewide solutions for urban and rural students, IDLA's coronavirus response, and credit recovery.

Jeff Simmons, Director of Supervision and Instruction for IDLA, discussed IDLA's enrollment data, noting that enrollment increased 76% for the 2019-2020 academic year and that 148 school districts and charters utilize IDLA online courses and technical services. He added that 1 in 5 IDLA students are from rural communities and 1 in 10 IDLA students are from urban communities, and that IDLA offers courses that helps meet the needs of both urban and rural students. IDLA is the state affiliate for the National Rural Education Association (NREA) and has created the Idaho Rural Education Association (IREA) based on this partnership. The IREA strives to provide various services and resources for rural students as well as rural teachers, staff, and administrators. Mr. Simmons also discussed IDLA's postsecondary partnerships with several of Idaho's public institutions of higher education as well as several industry partners. IDLA has also assisted with the placement of student teachers in virtual classrooms so these individuals could continue to pursue their degrees when schools were experiencing rolling physical closures during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Jolene Montoya, Director of Curriculum for IDLA, discussed that IDLA has established an elementary program that serves as a supplemental program in partnership with local schools in the areas of K-6 English language arts and math. The elementary program utilizes Idaho-certified teachers, research-based curriculum, personalized instruction

according to the needs of students, common assessments to measure student growth, live synchronous instruction, and a response to intervention process. Ms. Montoya shared that the feedback from parents and students for the elementary program was overwhelmingly positive, especially during the transition to remote learning during the pandemic. IDLA maintains an emphasis on quality, regardless of the grade level or subject matter. Ms. Montoya shared that IDLA will sponsor a program called “Elementary Launchpad” beginning in the summer of 2021, which will provide enrichment and intervention courses in the areas of reading and math for students in grades K-5. Students will work for 20-30 minutes per day on engaging, individualized sessions, and IDLA teachers will review progress and host live sessions with small groups of students.

Mr. Simmons discussed that IDLA will implement a program for secondary students to focus credit recovery for students in grades 11-12 in the areas of English language arts, math, social studies, and science in order to meet the needs of students in danger of not graduating. The program will begin in summer of 2021 and will utilize online IDLA content, IDLA teachers, and Social Emotional Learning supports provided by local schools. IDLA aims to expand the program to grades 9 and 10 next years.

There were no questions or comments from the Board.

3. 2021 Legislative Update

This item was provided in the agenda materials as an information item.

Board Member Clark introduced the item and drew the Board Members’ attention to the overview of legislation provided in the meeting agenda materials. She asked Board Members to send any questions or comments to Tracie Bent, Chief Planning and Policy Officer.

There were no questions or comments from the Board.

4. Accountability Oversight Committee – Recommendations – Accountability Framework – School Quality Indicator – Chronic Absenteeism

**BOARD ACTION**

**M/S (Clark/Liebich): I move to adopt the Accountability Oversight Committee recommendations as submitted in Attachment 1.** A roll call vote was taken and the motion carried 6-0. Ms. Keough was absent from voting.

Board Member Clark introduced the item and discussed that the Accountability Oversight Committee recommended substituting Chronic Absenteeism for the current School Quality Indicator. She outlined that there are two separate indicators within this measure, one that addresses students who regularly attend school and one that addresses students whose attendance has improved.

There were no questions or comments from the Board.

At this time, Board President Critchfield took a moment of personal privilege to recognize Dr. Bert Glandon, College of Western Idaho President, who is preparing to retire.

## **ELECTION OF OFFICERS**

### **BOARD ACTION**

**M/S (Critchfield/Scoggin): I move to appoint Kurt Liebich as Board President, Dr. Dave Hill as Board Vice President, and Dr. Linda Clark as Board Secretary.** A roll call vote was taken and the motion carried 6-0. Ms. Keough was absent from voting.

Board President Critchfield thanked the Board and Board Staff for their support and collaboration, and noted that there is still lots of work to do but that she will be participating from a different seat. She noted that she has full confidence in Board Secretary Liebich to serve as an effective Board President. Board Secretary Liebich stated that he is humbled to be appointed as Board President, and that he is confident stepping into the role knowing that he will have the support of his fellow Board Members and Board Staff.

There were no further questions or comments from the Board.

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

### **BOARD ACTION**

**M/S (Clark/Critchfield): I move to adjourn the meeting at pm 12:38pm (MT).** The motion carried 6-0. Ms. Keough was absent from voting.