

Minutes of the DMC monthly meeting, May 1, 2013
submitted by Archie George

Attending: Archie George, Linda Clark, Vince Miller, Andy Mehl, Jackie Throngard, Scott Grothe, Doug Armstrong, Tami Haft

Meeting started about 1:05 p.m.

1. Research Request Portal, with automated report capability, bid from Virginia was about \$960k, which is far outside the budget. This includes hardware, software, consulting fees and a very large travel component. Upon discussion, the bidder indicated they could do “the basics” for about \$500k. But more discussion would be necessary in order to determine what would be included, as Andy felt only the basics were in the original specifications. Virginia would most likely not be productive at this time, especially in light of the fact that Virginia has indicated they would only be interested in working with us if it assisted them in adding features to their system that they would like to have.

The alternative is to build a system from scratch, using SharePoint or similar software. This should be a viable solution, if not as fully-featured. Various software possibilities were discussed, such as “Helpdesk,” with the pros and cons of these more limited systems. Usage demands, estimated at 15 to 20 per month in Virginia to that many per day in some other states. ISU has a homegrown system that might have some potential. Vince is following up on that possibility. Other suggestions are welcome, contact Andy Mehl. Andy felt additional discussion with

2. Andy reported on this trip to Denver, where he met with WICHE and other states’ student tracking leaders for discussions regarding matching students from high school to college and transitions into the workforce. If anyone has questions they would think these data would be capable of answering, please let Andy know. We are not allowed to publish anything based on these data, but analyses might support, or not, some hunches and lead to more productive follow-up research. Scott suggested some analyses relevant to the 60% goal would be possible, such as migration of students into or out of Idaho into the workforce. Some wage data is available, in addition to employer ID (useful for determining job changes), CIP codes for college degrees. Jackie has a list of the data elements and will distribute to the DMC committee members.
3. We discussed the Data Sharing Agreement between Idaho State Board of Education and schools, school districts, or anyone outside the SBOE. Since many DMC members were not attending today, the consensus was for Archie to distribute a copy of the draft MOU and solicit reactions, to be sent to Andy.
4. Andy led a discussion of the “walk-through” with anyone requesting data, which would ensure the requestor would fully understand which variables would be included and help prevent

return requests because of misunderstandings between the requestor and the provider. Andy has inserted this step in the formal process document, which would also allow for capture of the discussion.

The meeting adjourned about 1:40 p.m. (Pacific daylight time).