



Trustees of Boise State University
Trustees of Idaho State University
Trustees of Lewis-Clark State College
Board of Regents of the University of Idaho
State Board for Career Technical Education

**STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
September 29, 2017
Office of the State Board of Education
Len B. Jordan Building, 3rd Floor
Boise, Idaho**

A special meeting of the State Board of Education was held September 29, 2017 in the large conference room of the Office of the State Board of Education, Len B. Jordan Building, in Boise, Idaho. Board President Linda Clark presided and called the meeting to order at 3:00 pm Mountain Time.

A roll call of members was taken.

Present:

Dr. Linda Clark, President	Andrew Scoggin
Debbie Critchfield, Vice President	Don Soltman
Dr. David Hill, Secretary	Richard Westerberg
Emma Atchley	
Sherri Ybarra, State Superintendent (except where noted)	

PLANNING, POLICY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS (PPGA)

1. Governor's Higher Education Task Force Recommendations

BOARD ACTION

M/S (Critchfield/Soltman): To adopt the Governor's Higher Education Task Force Recommendations as submitted in Attachment 1. The motion carried 7-0. Superintendent Ybarra was absent from voting.

AND

M/S (Critchfield/Soltman): To authorize the Executive Director to amend the System-wide Needs and Scholarships and Grants FY 2019 Budget Request with two additional line items as submitted in Attachment 2 and to prioritize the system-wide request in the following manner. The motion carried 8-0.

Priority 1: Degree Audit/Student Data Analytics System

Priority 2: Idaho Regional Optical Network (IRON)

Board member Critchfield introduced the item explaining that prior to submittal of the final Task Force findings and recommendations to the Governor, the Board has been asked to formally consider the recommendations as the State Board of Education and that as part of this process, the Board is also being given the opportunity to amend its FY2019 Budget Request and submit additional legislation that might be necessary to start implementation of the Task Force recommendations. There were no questions or comments from the Board on the first motion.

After a reading of the second motion Board member Hill asked why the proposed Degree Audit Student/Data Analytics System would be a responsibility of the Board and not an institutional responsibility. Dr. Hill then asked if the institutions do not already have a system in place to track degrees. To this the Board's Chief Academic Officer, Dr. Randall Brumfield, responded each institution does have their own degree audit system, however, the current model does not provide clear and transparent data and the proposed system would allow students to see how courses taken at one institution would transfer between the other institutions. Dr. Brumfield adds this would apply to both current students as well as dual-credit students. At this time Board member Clark asked if the Board were to move towards a centralized system could this not be the Boards first back office function. To this Dr. Brumfield responded his belief this would be an ideal project for the Board to transitions to Systemness. At this time Dr. Hill asked if the institutions would have to abandon their current system and software or if the proposed common system would be an overlay. To this Dr. Brumfield responded the proposed Degree Audit/Student Data Analytics System would be an overlay.

At this time Board member Atchley requested a brief background of the Idaho Regional Optical Network (IRON) request. To this, Board member Hill responded IRON is a means to connect institutions with super computers housed within the Idaho National Laboratory and is a mechanism allowing students to work remotely and still transmit large amounts of data. He adds IRON is a non-profit supported by the state's institutions and the Idaho National Laboratory (INL) and additional funds are needed to continue supporting the institutions working with INL.

Board member Atchley then shared with Board members a conversation she had with a member of the public on how to approach the Higher Education Task Force Access and

Affordability Work Group's recommendation for a statewide portal. Ms. Atchley shares with Board members this individual has offered his services on a pro-bono basis during the initial planning stages of this recommendation. She adds this individual's first recommendation is for an inventory of the current systems and the whole process may actually be simpler than anticipated.

At this time, University of Idaho President Dr. Chuck Staben shared with Board members his perspective on the proposed Degree Audit/Student Data Analytics System. He shares with Board members this could be a more complicated process than anticipated, adding any change to the current system will require evaluation prior to implementation. At this time the Board's Chief Academic Officer, Dr. Randall Brumfield responded Board staff's research of this topic has shown there are multiple components which make this process complex, however, it has been found the stated complexities at the institution level are less technical in nature and more an institutional preference. He adds this is a student facing program designed to support students and student success. At this time the Board's Executive Director, Mr. Matt Freeman added his support for Dr. Staben's concern, however, the proposed Degree Audit/Student Data Analytics System is not uncommon and there are vendors available to connect multiple systems. Superintendent Ybarra joined the meeting prior to voting on the second motion.

OTHER BUSINESS

At this time, Board member Clark shared with Board members a recommendation from the Higher Education Task Force to fund an Adult Completer Scholarship. She continues the Board had previously attempted to pass legislation related to this item the past two legislative sessions without success. Dr. Clark then asked Board staff to work with legislators to craft a new approach that could meet legislative approval. Board member Hill expressed his support adding the best approach is to alter the product to address the issue. The Board's Chief Planning and Policy Officer, Ms. Tracie Bent, added Board staff has been in contact with the Education Commission of the States (ECS) who has offered to provide technical assistance to the Board, recognizing this is a crucial step if the Board is to meet the 60% Goal.

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

M/S (Hill/Critchfield): To adjourn the meeting at 3:20 pm (MDT). The motion carried 8-0.