



650 W. State Street • Room 307 • Boise, ID • 83702
P.O. Box 83720 • Boise, ID • 83720-0037

For Immediate Release

February 18, 2021

Contact: Mike Keckler
208-332-1591 (office)
208-866-5734 (cell)
Mike.Keckler@osbe.idaho.gov

BOARD DISCUSSES SIMPLIFYING HIGHER EDUCATION STUDENT FEES

The Idaho State Board of Education today approved a first reading of a proposed policy change intended to simplify and clarify fees paid by students attending Idaho's four-year institutions.

The recommended change has been in the works for nearly a year and would consolidate fees for facilities, technology and activities into a consolidated mandatory fee.

The goal of the proposal is to be forward-looking and anticipate future needs as institutions collaborate and find ways to look at programs from more of a system-wide perspective while providing students with greater transparency regarding their fees.

“Having various delineated fees can make it difficult to completely understand what the bottom line will be for students planning to enroll,” Board President Debbie Critchfield said. “Work on this proposal started 10-months ago and is a timely discussion as some legislators are showing interest in student fees. We plan to have further conversations with them about this proposal before we make a final decision.”

The Proposed Policy change can be viewed on the Board website under agenda item 2: <https://boardofed.idaho.gov/meetings/board/archive/2021/0217-1821/06BAHR.pdf>

The Board also heard an update on the Cybersecurity Initiative involving all eight public community colleges and four-year institutions. Last year, the Idaho Legislature appropriated \$1 million for start-up purposes. The first bachelor-level classes are occurring this spring at the college and universities. Additional courses are being developed and will be jointly offered in the fall.

In related actions, the Board approved a request by Boise State University to offer online graduate certificates in Analyst and Threat Intelligence, Resilience Engineering, and Governance Policy Administration. The Board also approved an online Bachelor of Science and Master of Science in Cyber Operations and Resilience programs at Boise State.

The Board approved a change to its policy on planning and delivery of postsecondary programs and courses. The change was recommended by the Presidents Leadership Council and is designed to promote cooperation and coordination between institutions to avoid duplication and expand availability of high-demand programs.

The next regular Board meeting is scheduled April 21-22, 2021.

#####