WESTERN NEVADA COLLEGE

INSTITUTIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING

Minutes

Wednesday, February 4, 2015

10:05 a.m. – 11:40 a.m.

Bristlecone Building, Board Room

Carson City Campus

Video Connection from the meeting site to:

Fallon Campus, VRGH 309

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Chet Burton, WNC President

Rachel Dahl, Executive Director, CEDA

Jeffrey Gordon, Plant Manager, GE/Bently

Laura Ijames, Secretary, Fallon Paiute-Shoshone Tribe

Nick Marano, City Manager, Carson City

Ricky Medina, Director Assessment/Accountability, Carson City School District

Lisa Noonan, Superintendent, Douglas County School District

Mary Pierczynski, Educator

Gerd Poppinga, Sr., CEO/President, Vineburg Machining

Cary Richardson, COO, Miles Construction

Bus Scharmann, Commissioner, Churchill County

Hoyt Skabelund, CEO, Banner Churchill Hospital

Robert Slaby, Superintendent, Storey County School District

Maurice Washington, Deputy Director, Northern Nevada Development Authority

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Tim Dyhr, Vice President, Nevada Copper

WNC STAFF PRESENT:

Bonnie Bertocchi, Assistant to the President (Recorder)

Sherry Black, Director, Fallon Campus

Mark Ghan, Vice President of Administrative and Legal Services/General Counsel

Anne Hansen, Director, Information and Marketing Services

Lori Tiede, Fallon Campus Manager

Robert Wynegar, Vice President of Academic and Student Affairs

OTHER GUEST(S):

George Gussak, Manager, Outreach Development, Dream It, Do It Nevada

Call to Order

1. Introductions: President Chet Burton thanked the advisory council members for agreeing to serve. He asked that members introduce themselves, and provide brief background information. Chet noted that advisory council member Tim Dyhr from Nevada Copper had a conflict and was unable to attend the inaugural meeting. He said Mary Pierczynski would be a late arrival due to a legislative commitment. Chet noted that a quorum of advisory council members was present.
2. Public Comment: There was no public comment.
3. Remarks from WNC President Chester Burton: Chet provided information on the history behind the new institutional advisory councils (IAC). He said the initiative came from SB391. Legislators were looking at the governance of community colleges and decided they needed to be more connected to the communities they serve in order to meet workforce needs. He said this newly appointed advisory council would serve to meet that requirement because membership consists of stakeholders representing WNC’s large geographic service area. Chet said a chair and a vice-chair would be elected during this meeting. The chair would serve on the regents’ standing committee on community colleges as the WNC representative. The vice chair is charged with attending meetings of the advisory council and/or regents’ standing committee when the chair is unable. Chet noted that all advisory council members received the committee charge from Frank Woodbeck.
4. Presentation on Nevada Open Meeting Law, Mark Ghan, WNC General Counsel: Mark Ghan introduced himself to the advisory council members. He said that all community college advisory councils throughout the state would be receiving a briefing this morning on the open meeting law. He noted that all WNC advisory council members received a copy of the entire open meeting law on the flash drive mailed to them last month. Mark said this body is considered a public body because members were appointed by the Board of Regents; therefore the open meeting law applies to all advisory council meetings. Mark asked the committee to be aware of the following important points during advisory council meetings:

* Meetings are open and accessible to the public
* All meetings would be recorded/transcribed
* Minutes summarizing the agenda discussions would be taken and made available to the public within 30 days
* Meetings must remain on topic and in-line with the agenda item being discussed
* Action is taken by majority vote of members present

1. Election of WNC Institutional Advisory Council Officers: Chet explained the importance that the role of chair and vice-chair would have as representatives of WNC and the advisory council at the standing meetings of all NSHE community college advisory council chairs. Before opening the floor up for nominations, Chet asked council members if they had any questions about the chair and vice chair positions. With no questions received, Chet opened the floor for nominations of chair.

Robert Slaby moved to nominated Maurice Washington to serve as chair

Bus Scharmann seconded the motion

Motion carried by unanimous vote. Maurice Washington will serve as chair of the institutional advisory council and represent WNC at the standing NSHE community college advisory council meetings. It was noted the first meeting would be held in Reno on February 26, 2015.

Chet opened the floor for nominations of vice-chair.

Rachel Dahl nominated Jeffrey Gordon to serve as vice-chair.

Gerd Poppinga nominated Cary Richardson to serve as vice-chair.

Chet called for a show of hands to vote for Jeffrey Gordon. Jeffrey received three votes.

Chet called for a show of hands to vote for Cary Richardson. Cary received four votes.

Cary Richardson will serve as vice-chair and will represent the chair at meetings of the institutional advisory council and/or standing NSHE community college advisory council when the chair is unable to attend.

1. Discussion and possible action to set the 2015 meeting schedule and location: Chet indicated that the standing NSHE community college advisory council would meet quarterly, during the week or two prior to the board of regents meeting. He recommended that the institutional advisory council meet quarterly as well, possibly the week or two prior to the NSHE group meeting. He noted that special meetings could be called in emergency situations. Discussion took place on whether meetings should be coordinated with the deadline to submit agenda items for the standing NSHE Advisory Council meetings, but since meeting dates for the NSHE group meetings have not been scheduled, no action was taken. Once meeting dates are schedule, Bonnie Bertocchi will forward that information to the IAC members. Chet said the location for meetings could be flexible, and said meetings could be held on the Carson, Douglas and Fallon campuses. Robert Slaby offered use of Piper’s Opera House in Virginia City for an alternative meeting location.
2. Discussion of WNC Institutional Advisory Council Orientation Materials: Chet said he mailed flash drives to all institutional advisory council members and ad hoc members. The flash drives contain the following documents:

* Foundation Fact Book
* Institutional Advisory Council (IAC) Charge
* New NSHE Funding Model
* NSHE New Legislator Briefing
* Open Meeting Law Manual
* Overview of Campus Facilities
* WNC 14-15 Budget Summary
* WNC Mission Presentation
* WNC Programs of Study
* WNC Quick Facts
* WNC Strategic Plan
* Workforce Development at WNC

All documents are posted at http://www.wnc.edu/president/advisory/advisory-materials/ for public viewing.

Chet provided a hand-out on the budget with a 20-year overview back to the 1999 baseline. He said between 2008 and 2016 WNC has faced a reduction in the general fund (state support) of 42%. He explained that the new formula funding model hit WNC and GBC the hardest, and that certain workforce development courses cost more to present than other courses such as English. He said under the new formula, the cost of a credit is equal, no matter what the actual cost is to present the course. He said bridge funding would help WNC with the transition to the new formula implementation, but that bridge funding was not included in the governor’s budget.

1. Discussion of Legislative Session: Chet presented the NSHE legislative priorities. He said those priorities include the following:
   * $5 increase to the weighted student credit hour to help offset the increasing cost of presenting classes (costs have continually increased since 2008 leaving WNCs budget flat or decreasing in this area). This request was not included in the governor’s budget.
   * Secure bridge-funding for WNC and GBC. WNC would need $1.1 million in FY16 and $850,000 in FY17 to help transition to the current funding model. Chet indicated that without making this investment, WNC cannot continue to grow enrollment and support completion. Chet noted that the bridge money would be used to:
     + Continue and expand the Jump Start College program
     + Provide more support and grow enrollment at the rural campuses, including a Campus Director in Fallon
     + Invest in cost-saving initiatives to include expanding shared services and streamlining operations
     + Begin installation of a manufacturing/robotics lab for workforce development supporting the emerging demand for advanced manufacturing in Northern Nevada.

Chet noted that bridge-funding was not included in the governor’s budget.

* + Secure bridge-funding for the Desert Research Institute (DRI). Chet explained that DRI partners with private companies doing research. He said they were negatively affected by the 2012 sequester by the Federal Government. The bridge funding would help them to reach out to private industry and the government sector to partner with them on research. This request was not included in the governor’s budget.
  + The Boyd School of Law at UNLV has seen a significant cut to their enrollment. They are asking for $1.5 million/year of the biennium, for a total of $3 million. This request was included in the governor’s budget.
  + Expansion of medical education to include a medical school at UNLV. $45 million was requested, but the governor only included approximately $9.6 million in his budget to start the UNLV medical school.

Chet said other discussions include creating a hospitality school. Maurice said funding for a hospitality school would be steered by the gaming industry.

Two other focuses which came out of SB391 but were not included in the governor’s budget are: $5 million for need-based financial aid, and $6 million for workforce development that could be used if an industry has an emerging need or a new company.

Chet said the first hearing on higher education would take place on February 24, 2015 before the legislative budget committees. He said he would attend, but not sure if he would be required to testify. Maurice asked Chet to identify the two top priorities for WNC. Chet stated that the $5 increase to the student weighted credit hour and bridge funding are the two top priorities for WNC.

Discussion took place on steps the advisory council could take to assist with advocating the two top priorities. Suggestions included the following:

* Create a resolution to present to the legislature
* Speak directly with legislators (Note: Chet indicated that the system office has lobbyists who are charged with representing the universities and colleges)
* Develop a path to get students excited about manufacturing careers
* Write a letter of support from the Institutional Advisory Council. Chet noted that part of the councils’ charter is to provide advocacy.

1. New Business: Maurice said two suggestions arose from this meeting, which would require action by the council: 1) Develop a path to get students excited about manufacturing careers. Maurice recommended that Cary Richardson and Jeff Gordon form a sub-committee to develop an action plan to get students involved in manufacturing careers and bring the action plan to the next IAC meeting. Laura Ijames said a new database company called Switch is moving to Reno, and would be in need of trained workforce which could be included in the action plan; 2) write a letter supporting WNC’s two top budget priorities. Maurice suggested that Bonnie draft a 2 to 3 paragraph letter of support for the committee to consider sending to the legislative budget committees. He recommended calling a special Institutional Advisory Council telephone conference meeting to review and approve the letter.

Maurice recommended that Chet provide an overview of the WNC budget to the advisory council members at the next meeting so they have a better understanding of the budget issues.

1. Public Comment: The following was discussed:
   * George Gussak from Dream It, Do It suggested that the IAC find out what other areas are doing to get students interested in CTE. He recommended clearly defining a long term approach starting with middle schools on up, and finding out what other areas are doing, i.e., what TMCC is doing with CTE programs, so that everyone is working toward the same goal.
   * Maurice commented that Jump Start and 2+2 programs are the immediate need, and that working with the industry sectors is a long-term focus.
   * Bus Scharmann said in order to grow enrollment, colleges need to look at scheduling and course offerings for the adult student. He said you can grow through enrollment of high school students, but WNC has been a big decrease in enrollment of adult learners. Lisa Noonan asked whether Right Skills Now is still a program being used. Chet said that the manufacturing industry uses Right Skills Now, which benefits the adult learner.
   * Chet discussed the TAACCCT Grant. He said WNC took the lead in round four of the grant, and Nevada as a state received $10 million. WNC was the largest recipient, receiving $4.4 million which would be used to expand and enhance existing programs in welding, machine tool technology, manufacturing, and to increase support for veterans.

Discussion took place on the best date for the special advisory council meeting, and coordinating dates of future IAC meetings two weeks prior to the system meetings. It was determined that the scheduling of IAC meetings would occur after the first system meeting which would be held on February 26. The special conference call meeting would be scheduled once the letter to the legislative money committees is drafted.

Chet thanked the advisory council members for their service and called the meeting adjourned.

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 11:40 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Bonnie Bertocchi

Minutes approved at the IAC meeting on May 21, 2015