

COMMISSION FOR HIGHER EDUCATION

Friday, May 14, 2010

INFORMATION ITEM D: Minutes of the March 2010 Commission Working Sessions

MINUTES OF COMMISSION WORKING SESSIONS

Thursday, March 11, 2010

I. CALL TO ORDER

The Commission for Higher Education met in working session starting at 6:00 p.m. (ET) at IUPUI University Place Conference Center, Indiana Room, 850 W. Michigan, Indianapolis, Indiana. Commission members in attendance were Cynthia Baker, Dennis Bland, Jon Costas, Jud Fisher, Gary Lehman, Marilyn Moran-Townsend, George Rehnquist, Ken Sendelweck, and Clayton Slaughter.

Also present were President Tom Snyder (ITCC), Jeff Terp, Jim Steck (ITCC-Richmond), Don Doucette, and Chair of the Board of Trustees Kaye Whitehead. Staff present was Jason Bearce, Catisha Coates, Haley Glover, Bernie Hannon, Teresa Lubbers, and Ken Sauer.

II. DISCUSSION

- A. Acting Chair Ken Sendelweck called the meeting to order at 6 PM.
- B. Ivy Tech Community College of Indiana President Tom Snyder presented information about the College's strategic planning process, which began about 18 months ago. The process involved thousands of people across the College. The College's new mission, "Changing Lives, Making Indiana Great" reflects the idea that the College serves Indiana, and in effect, operates as an arm of state policy.
 - a. The College has seen unprecedented growth in the past year, with enrollments increasing by 31% from Fall 2008 to Fall 2009. As a result, funding per student has decreased by 24%, as state appropriations have not kept up with enrollments.
 - b. The College has established a set of benchmarks for completion and progress, measured at the 90th percentile of community colleges nationwide.
 - c. The College is working to better meet students where they are, noting that they are instituting a mandatory orientation for all students to acquaint them with available services, and that they are putting financial aid refunds on ATM cards to save the students' check cashing fees.
 - i. President Snyder and Provost Doucette argued that the current methodology for calculating completion rates is very flawed—many students do not enter community college with the intention of completing an Associate's degree.
 - d. A portion of the conversation was dedicated to a discussion about the ratio of full-time to part-time faculty. It is estimated that currently about 85% of the faculty is part-time, and that student advising and curriculum development is handled by full-time faculty. In order to get to a ratio of 50% full-time to 50% part-time, \$40M in new funding would be needed.
- C. Ken Sauer, Senior Associate Commissioner for Research and Academic Affairs, led a conversation about distance/online education. The current Commission policy, which was developed about ten years ago, references cost only in that an Indiana resident taking an online course cannot be charged more than a non-resident student.
 - a. Dr. Sauer noted that two programs on the Friday Commission agenda are distance programs, and that three questions frame the issue:

- i. Is it possible to think of distance education as a less costly delivery method, resulting in lower fees?
 1. In the case of the Ball State program, fees are 30% less than on-campus fees. The Purdue Aero/Astro program charges 300% the cost of on-campus fees.
- ii. Should Indiana residents pay less than non-residents who take distance education from Indiana colleges?
 1. Ball State University resident students will pay 45% less than non-residents. Purdue does not distinguish between residents and non-residents.
- iii. To what extent should distance education fees be driven by the market?
 1. Ball State's education program is a widely offered one, where the market is not really an issue. Purdue's program is a niche program, and Purdue's fees are in the middle of peer institution costs for professional engineering programs.
- b. Ivy Tech Provost Don Doucette noted that faculty interaction provides the value-add to distance education. Ivy Tech charges \$15/credit hour in additional fees for online/distance education. He noted that online students require additional services, and that new ways of delivering those services to an online population need to be developed, adding costs.
- c. Teresa Lubbers, Commissioner, commented that the higher price for online education is disappointing, given the expectation by so many that distance education would be a price-reducer for students.
- d. The group determined that the distance education policy should be revisited and updated.

III. ADJOURNMENT

The Chair adjourned the meeting at approximately 8:30 p.m. (ET).

MINUTES OF COMMISSION WORKING SESSION

Friday, May 14, 2010

I. CALL TO ORDER

The Commission for Higher Education met in working session starting at 7:45 a.m. (ET) at IUPUI University Place Conference Center, Indiana Room, 850 W. Michigan, Indianapolis, Indiana, with Chair Michael Smith presiding. The following members were present: Cynthia Baker, Dennis Bland, Jon Costas, Jud Fisher, Gary Lehman, Marilyn Moran-Townsend, Chris Murphy, George Rehnquist, Ken Sendelweck, Clayton Slaughter, and Mike Smith.

Staff present was Jason Bearce, Catisha Coates, Nicole Crouse, Jean Dugan, Haley Glover, Bernard Hannon, Teresa Lubbers, and Ken Sauer.

II. DISCUSSION

- A. Gary Lehman, Chair of the Commission's Human Resources Committee, notified the Commission that he, Teresa Lubbers and Mike Smith had recently met to conduct an HR review. He noted that Teresa had provided the results of her "listening sessions" with staff, commenting on staff attributes and developmental needs. Teresa noted that there is a lingering "front burner" issue in the evolution of Learn More Indiana, and that we will need to focus more on how this organization operates as a CHE priority. She also commented that the Commission asks a lot of its staff, but all staff members share a commitment to their jobs and the mission of the Commission. Mike Smith added that the Commission should reflect on the productivity of this staff, which is blessed by a talented organization and great leadership.
- B. Haley Glover, Associate Commissioner for Policy and Planning Studies, provided a review of the Commission's current reciprocity agreements: Kentucky and Ohio.
 - a. The current Kentucky agreement is in place through the end of FY13 (June 30, 2013), and while about 200 more Kentucky students enroll in Indiana schools, fiscally this agreement works in Indiana's favor.
 - b. The Ohio agreement, which has been in place since 2004 (and was allowed to expire for the 2007-08 school year) has never achieved parity in enrollment or fiscally. Currently, 1,043 Ohio students enroll at Indiana institutions at an estimated cost between \$1.65M and \$5.4M (depending on BSU's inclusion in cost, as this institution does not participate in the enrollment growth funding formula). Only 272 Indiana students enroll at Ohio institutions, at a cost of approximately \$732K.
 - i. The Commission requested additional information to determine why parity does not exist: whether in-state tuition rates are significantly lower in Indiana than in Ohio, in particular.
 - c. This issue will be deliberated prior to the Commission's May meeting due to the deadline for signature of the agreement.

III. ADJOURNMENT

The Chair adjourned the meeting at 8:55 a.m. (ET).