

NOTE: THESE MINUTES ARE SUBJECT TO APPROVAL BY THE FULL COUNCIL AT ITS NEXT MEETING. SHOULD REVISIONS BE MADE, THEY WILL BE INCLUDED AS AN ITEM IN THE MINUTES OF THAT MEETING.

Minutes of the Meeting of the
COUNCIL FOR EDUCATION POLICY, RESEARCH AND IMPROVEMENT
August 16, 2005
Room 312 B, Pepper Building
Tallahassee, Florida

Members Present: W. C. Gentry Bob Taylor
Bob McIntyre (by phone) Harold Wishna (by phone)
Elaine Vasquez (by phone)

Others Present: **CEPRI Staff**
Patrick Dallet Simmie Raiford
Bob Cox

Legislative Staff

Joann Hassell – House Choice and Innovation Committee
Margaret Thomas- House Community Colleges and Workforce
Education Committee

Chairman's Report

Chairman Gentry called the meeting to order at 8:40 a.m. The minutes of the June 29 meeting of the Council were approved without amendment. He reported on his meetings with House and Senate leadership staff and the Executive Office of the Governor. He noted that the House will begin holding committee meetings in September and the Senate will begin its meetings in October and stressed the importance of making as much progress as quickly as possible on the two priority projects – collateral effects of the class size amendment and the effectiveness of in-service education for teachers. He said that all the people he spoke with agreed upon the need for an entity like CEPRI but at this point, given the current budget situation, the Council will probably hold its last public meeting in October at a time and location to be determined. Mr. Wishna, Mr. McIntyre and other members stressed the importance of this meeting as a vehicle for informing and engaging the public in the work of the Council. Chairman Gentry said that the State Board was meeting today and considering several items of interest to the Council including a report on the new co-teaching policy and the procedures for reviewing community college baccalaureate proposals. On the latter topic, Mr. Taylor noted that the statute authorizing the Council to review such degree proposals is still in place and asked what role, if any, the Council would play. Dr. Dallet reported that he had been contacted by a representative of the Department and informed that since the Council had not been funded this year the

review would be overseen by a cross-functional review team identified by the Department. At the request of Chairman Gentry and the Council, Dr. Dallet agreed to volunteer to assist with the review process.

Executive Director's Report

Dr. Dallet reported that since the last meeting in June two additional CEPRI employees had resigned. Jon Rogers is now with the Board of Governors and Diane Hodgins is participating in a grant project related to her dissertation topic. He noted that the staff remaining includes Bob Cox, Simmie Raiford and Glenda Rabby. In addition to the two priority projects of the Council Dr. Dallet noted that today's meeting packet includes an update on the status of recommendations in the Career and Professional Education component of the Master Plan and that a similar report would be provided on Teachers and the Teaching Profession at the next Council meeting. He said that the last project on the work plan related to the student progression cohort analysis, and that he has had a series of discussions with OPPAGA staff regarding the possible continuation of this project. The Council members agreed that this was worth pursuing as long as it did not impede work on the priority projects addressed in the work plan.

Class Size Study Update

Bob Cox reviewed a Power Point presentation on data and issues identified to date through a literature review and examination of statistical information available from the Department of Education and elsewhere. Chairman Gentry said that he had shared this information with House and Senate staff who found it helpful. Mr. Cox noted that staff development is a key component of any effort to address class size. He said that based on an NCES survey Florida has the worst average of all states in teacher recruitment. The Chairman noted that volume certainly contributes to this situation. The fact that neighboring states such as Georgia are offering significantly higher salaries is also a contributing factor. Mr. Cox pointed out the spike in teacher demand that will occur in 06-07 when class size accountability shifts from the district to the school level. He said that data related to the number of classrooms being constructed to address this need is being collected now by the Department. Both the Chairman and Mr. Taylor requested additional information on the amount being spent by the districts now to address class size. Mr. Cox noted that in addition to the class size amendment, growth and teacher turnover are major contributing factors to the challenge facing Florida. He said that turnover averages about nine percent annually throughout the state and that when a job market is under stress even districts that are not experiencing growth or class size problems can have difficulty filling vacant positions. Mr. Cox noted that the percentage of out of field teachers increased significantly in California following a similar class size initiative. He also pointed out that schools with high numbers of disadvantaged students experience teacher turnover rates approximately fifty percent higher than other schools. The Chairman asked for information on the proportion of new teachers hired in Florida produced by FL postsecondary institutions. Mr. Taylor asked if the overall pool of available teachers can be described in terms of being highly qualified, qualified, and unqualified. The issue of how the class size amendment will impact compliance with No Child Left Behind was also raised. The Chairman described a scenario in which students might be shifted across a county to an under enrolled school through redistricting only to then elect to move back when their new school fails to make adequate

yearly progress. Mr. Cox noted that in addition to teachers the issue of adequate space needs to be addressed at a time when projected revenues for capital outlay are declining. This led to a discussion of capital outlay funding and the possibility of supplementing revenues for this purpose. Also discussed was the issue of co-teaching and whether or not this is precluded by the Constitutional amendment. Mr. Cox said that the overall report would have three strands: data analysis, legal analysis and a series of case studies with information gathered by phone survey from selected counties. Mr. Taylor asked if the report on in-service could be rolled into the class size study. Staff agreed that they certainly could be presented together given the many issues they have in common.

In-service Education

Dr. Raiford discussed the study outline for in-service education in Florida. After reviewing the informational update on the study, Chairman Gentry raised concerns that the key issues related to the topic were not adequately addressed and that the report did not provide any new insights into the challenges of costing out professional development and learning what effective practices are in place. Specifically, the Chairman requested more information on the type and amount of in-service activities that Florida teachers are mandated to take, and the impact that has on their time away from instructing students. Additionally, the Chairman and other council members wanted to know what tools and measures are needed by school districts to enable them to accurately account for in-service costs (i.e. to determine how much is being spent, on what, and to what effect in terms of student achievement).

The second phase of the report centered on the Schultz Center for Teaching and Leadership and its efforts to construct a model of in-service that provides a clear connection from in-service costs to training to the impact of teacher training on student outcomes. The Chairman expressed concern that there had been delays in accessing the necessary achievement data to illustrate the impact of the training conducted by the Schultz Center on student performance. With the deadline nearing for completion of this project, the Chairman stressed the importance of producing a report that outlines the training model that has been developed by the Schultz Center and states the anticipated outcomes, rather than further delaying the study by waiting for a complete accounting of student assessment results. Dr. Raiford will be returning to Jacksonville to meet with Schultz Center and Duval County personnel to obtain the additional information requested by the Council. Chairman Gentry expressed interest in attending one or both of these meetings.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 12:20 pm.