

Minutes of the Meeting of the
COUNCIL FOR EDUCATION POLICY, RESEARCH AND IMPROVEMENT
Tuesday, January 15, 2002
Enterprise Village
Gus A. Stavros Institute
Largo, Florida

Members Present: Akshay Desai Pat Telson
Diane P. Leone Mary Watts
Bob McIntyre Edwin Moore
Robert Taylor

Members Absent: Philip Morgaman
Jacob Stuart

Vice Chairman Akshay Desai opened the meeting and welcomed the Council members.

The minutes of the December 11, 2001, meeting were approved as circulated.

Chairman's Report

Dr. Desai thanked member Mr. Bob McIntyre and Mr. Keith Gall, Director of the Stavros Institute for arranging and hosting the Council meeting at Enterprise Village and Finance Park.

Executive Director's Report

Dr. Pat Dallet referred members to Dr. Bill Proctor's written report contained in the meeting packet. At Dr. Proctor's request, Mr. Robert Taylor reported on a recent meeting of the Council of 100. He said that the Council's Task Force on Education Governance has discussed Senator Graham's proposal to reestablish a Board of Regents for the university system and taken the position that supporting such a change at this time would detract from the current K-20 reform initiative. Mr. Taylor asked about the status of the Strategic Imperatives identified by the Council. Dr. Proctor said these had been forwarded to the Florida Board and that he was awaiting feedback from the Board staff. He said the Board would be discussing its Strategic Plan at a workshop in Pensacola on Thursday, January 17, 2002. Mr. Taylor suggested that the imperatives should continue to be worked on by the Council and Vice Chairman Desai and Ms. Diane Leone responded that this should be coordinated with any action by the Florida Board before proceeding.

Ms. Pat Telson asked about the status of workforce development in the proposed budget. Dr. Dallet recognized Vice Chancellor Lanny Larson of the Division of Community Colleges who said the Governor was recommending an additional \$25 million in his budget for this area.

Postsecondary Education in Polk County

Dr. Jon Rogers reported on the Council's review of the postsecondary education delivery system in Polk County. As the fourth largest county in Florida and eighth largest in population, Polk County has gained attention as being positioned at the center of the State's I-4 high-tech corridor. The county's economy continues to evolve from an agricultural region to one that now focuses on manufacturing and business services. Dr. Rogers said that Polk County remains low in the educational attainment of its citizens as less than 10 percent of adults possess a bachelor's degree.

The focus of the discussion on postsecondary education centers on the joint-use facility, where academic space is shared by Polk Community College (PCC) and the Lakeland branch of the University of South Florida. PCC has two campuses in Polk County and the college has grown steadily in enrollment and program offerings. In particular, enrollment in Associate in Science Degree programs has increased 23 percent in the past five years. PCC has maintained a close relationship with the University of South Florida (USF) branch and offers a seamless articulation to university baccalaureate programs. Dr. Rogers reported that the college increasingly has focused on meeting the training needs of the region's workforce. Dr. Bill Swinford, PCC Vice President for Academic & Student Services, confirmed the continued enrollment growth at the joint-use facility. He said that most of the enrollment consists of part-time students in workforce training programs. The primary responsibility of the college continues to be to increase access in Polk County to postsecondary education. The college is now focusing on the establishment of educational programs for the identified high demand – high wage occupations.

The Lakeland branch of USF offers a broad array of undergraduate and graduate programs and, through three years of specific legislative appropriations, has added courses and new degree programs. Dr. Rogers discussed numerous educational partnerships in the county with independent institutions and identified options that are being discussed to address projected growth at both institutions, including a new technology building and recent interest in relocating the USF branch to a new campus. Dr. Preston Mercer, Campus Dean of USF Lakeland, discussed the opportunities available at the university branch to increase the economic prosperity in Polk County. He reviewed two important components to attracting industry: workforce development programs and opportunities to interact in a research environment with university faculty. Being a Research I University, USF provides the link between industry and faculty resources. Dr. Mercer discussed the prospects for growth in Polk County and reviewed proposals that have been made to the Lakeland Campus to donate land for the establishment of a new campus. He predicted that a separate regional USF campus would be successful in the high growth area of Polk County.

Council members discussed the testimony and requested additional information on employer surveys in the region regarding educational needs (Vice Chairman Desai) and available programs offered by independent institutions in the service area (Mr. Moore). The Council will further review these issues at its February meeting.

Community College Baccalaureate Degree Program Proposals

Dr. Dallet said that representatives of the three colleges that had submitted baccalaureate degree program proposals were available to answer questions. He suggested that the discussion should also address the broad issues related to community colleges offering baccalaureate degrees. He noted that St. Petersburg College (SPC) had been authorized by the

2001 Legislature to offer several 4-year degrees and had received approval from the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS) to proceed. He asked whether additional experience should be gained from SPC before further expansion. He also asked if a framework was needed similar to that established in the 1950s to guide the original development of the community college system in terms of the number and location of these institutions.

Dr. Eduardo Padron, President of Miami-Dade Community College provided an overview of his institution and said that, with over 143,000 students, Miami-Dade Community College does not need more enrollment or programs. However, he pointed out that there is a great deal of additional community and legislative support for the college to assist in addressing the area's shortage of teachers. Dr. Leslie Roberts, Director of the Miami-Dade Community College School of Education discussed the pool of over 5,000 students currently enrolled and the proposed programs which would contribute to addressing the overall teacher shortage as well as the under representation of minority teachers. Mr. Taylor noted that the proposed programs had a projected enrollment of 500 and wondered whether this would significantly address the gap of 3,000 teachers the proposals cited. Representative Rafael Arza, a teacher at Miami Senior High discussed his experience in teacher training and noted that the existing programs at the closest state university did not effectively meet his needs in terms of scheduling and accessibility. Ms. Mary Watts stressed the need to think "outside the box" in this area. Vice Chairman Desai asked where was the disconnect between supply and demand, and how can the shortages be monitored and addressed before they become critical. Mr. Edwin Moore said that he had seen contradictory numbers regarding the projected shortages and wanted additional information to determine what is real. He noted that predicting shortages is difficult except for the exceptional student categories, which consistently are understaffed. Ms. Watts suggested that even in the case of exceptional students some might be improperly classified due to a lack of adequate teacher training. Mr. Moore also asked about the capacity of existing state universities. He wondered whether this direction reflects the true mission of the community colleges or if this is a case of mission creep. Ms. Leone asked about the degree criteria adopted by the Florida Board of Education. Dr. Dallet said that input had been requested from the sectors and would be available at the February meeting. Mr. Taylor said that the goal appeared to be to train more diverse candidates, more effectively. He suggested three options: 1) assign entire responsibility to the community colleges; 2) fix any training and access issues in the state universities; or 3) work collaboratively.

Dr. Padron noted that Florida Atlantic University and Florida International University were originally upper division universities, which subsequently expanded without creating significant problems. He said there is enough need for all institutions in the area. Ms. Telson expressed concern that teachers are allowed to teach out-of-field for three years. She said that she had encouraged bilingual training years ago when she served on a school board. Dr. Ken Walker, President of Edison Community College, said that this initiative represents a new paradigm that has already been embraced by other states: Arkansas, Nevada, Utah, Oregon, Pennsylvania, New York, Hawaii, and five Canadian provinces. Dr. Maureen McClintock provided an overview of the two programs proposed by Edison and said that they would be targeted at non-traditional students age 25 and older. Ms. Leone questioned whether the Bachelors of Applied Science would be a credential that would not allow further advancement by the student at a later date. She noted that no state university now offers this credential. Dr. McClintock noted that the University of Phoenix and Nova Southeastern recognize the Bachelor of Applied Science. Mr. Taylor said that if the goal is for an Associate of Science to articulate to a higher degree why create the Bachelor of Applied Science rather than fixing Associate of Science/Bachelor of Science articulation. He said there appears to be a mismatch between

what is being provided and what the customer wants. Mr. Jim Slusher, Vice President for Finance at Edison said that the primary issue was access. Mr. Moore asked if Associate of Arts and Associate of Science completion would be required for enrollment in the proposed baccalaureate programs. Dr. Padron said this should be a requirement. Dr. Walker expressed concern that the universities will become more exclusive. Dr. Proctor said that the issue is for universities to find ways to articulate students with Associate of Science degrees. Ms. Telson suggested that military retirees would be an excellent source of faculty to teach management skills. Mr. Taylor said that identifying an accurate measure of need and the best way to meet it are the challenges. Dr. Proctor said that the questions are whether there is enough demand for both 2 and 4-year institutions to address, and if so, will the overall need be met.

Dr. Kitty Myers, Director of the University Center of Chipola Community College described the three proposals submitted by her college and suggested a pilot is needed in a rural area as well. In response to a question from Ms. Leone she said that there is a need for Bachelor of Science in Nursing training with an emphasis on rural health care. Mr. Taylor asked how Chipola would attract faculty comparable to those at Florida State University, and she responded that educators interested in teaching rather than research or publishing would be sought.

Vice Chairman Desai asked staff to address the issues raised. Dr. Proctor said that the Legislature wants to make dollars available as soon as possible. The Vice Chairman noted that since sector input would not be available until the end of January, the Council would discuss this issue again in February and take action in March.

Enterprise Village

Mr. Gus Stavros thanked everyone for coming to the Gus A. Stavros Institute. Mr. Stavros said he started Enterprise Village with the support of real businesses, including: Florida Power, Better Business Forms, Verizon, and the St. Petersburg Times. He said the initial building, which is Enterprise Village, cost \$1.1 million. He said 17,000 students a year attend Enterprise Village, and are involved in all aspects of running a business. There is a section called Communication Cove, which has two program areas: Childhood Development and Career Planning. Finance Park is the newest addition to the Stavros Institute, at a cost of \$4 million. Mr. Stavros noted that participating businesses donated \$500,000 each to help with the expansion. The students attending Finance Park learn budgeting and life skills. Approximately 14,000 students attend Finance Park each year. Eventually, there will be a total of 40,000 students a year that will attend the Stavros Institute. Mr. Stavros said students who attend must complete an application identifying their interests and general career goals. The institute develops its curriculum around these interests.

Mr. Stavros said they have about 2,000 students in the Doorways Program. The Stavros Institute participates in the Scholarships for Adult and Vocational Education (SAVE) program, which was founded by Frances L. Stavros. About 1,700 students, who were dropouts, have come back to school. Mr. Stavros said that the institute has recently contracted with the Junior Achievers to start Enterprise Villages and Finance Parks all over the country.

Faculty Productivity Issues in the State Universities

Dr. Rogers discussed the timeline for the completion of this project and introduced study consultant Ms. Nancy Stepina-Robison, Senior Associate with MGT of America, Inc. Ms. Stepina-Robison reviewed the study outline and said that the context that will be developed for

this review of faculty productivity will be an important component of the report. The report analyses will be conducted based on 800,000 pieces of data provided by the Department of Education, Division of Colleges and Universities from 10 years of faculty workload data. As an example of the complexity of the data on productivity, Ms. Stepina-Robison reported that State university faculty taught 80,000 courses and 4.6 million student credit hours last year. She also reported that State university faculty generated nearly \$1 billion in external revenues, which calculates to \$120,000 per FTE faculty.

Ms. Stepina-Robison said that the report will provide a national perspective on issues of faculty productivity, including productivity benchmarks and standards developed in other states. A long-standing issue that will be explored is: How university funds are budgeted for faculty positions and how these funds are actually expended. Mr. Taylor requested information on the approach of community colleges and independent institutions to faculty productivity and the impact of tenure on faculty productivity. Mr. Moore suggested that the Council's study of State University Research Centers and Institutes be coordinated with the work of this study. Ms. Stepina-Robison said that a draft report will be presented for discussion at the Council's February meeting.

Apprenticeship Programs

Ms. Tara Goodman presented the draft findings on the following issues related to apprenticeship training in Florida: demographic characteristics, completion rates, average time-to-completion, the relationship between on-the-job training and instruction, the exemption for matriculation and fees and the impact on the workforce development funding formula. Mr. Jim Sullivan, apprenticeship coordinator for the electrical program at Mid-Florida Tech, and Mr. Steve Cona, president of Associated Builders and Contractors, Inc., were invited to address the Council on these apprenticeship topics. Both Mr. Cona and Mr. Sullivan supported a continuation of the fee exemption for students in registered apprenticeship programs. Ms. Susan Lehr, a representative for Florida Community College at Jacksonville, asked the Council to consider removing the statewide exemption for apprentices and let the local college or district decide whether to waive matriculation fees for the related training instruction part of the program.

Public testimony was heard from several representatives from the apprenticeship programs, community colleges and school districts regarding support and non-support for continued fee exemption. The final report and draft recommendations will be presented at the February 12, 2002, meeting of the Council.

Master Plan

Mr. David Wright presented an initial draft of the Condition of Education in Florida. The document, a compendium of statistical data indicating current state conditions, is intended to serve as background to the Council's master planning activities. Staff is currently developing sections on demographic and social conditions, education finance, enrollment, staffing, and student learning outcomes. Mr. Moore asked that information be provided to indicate how Florida's performance and relative standing has changed over time. Mr. Taylor suggested that this data analytic activity might be an alternative means of verifying the validity of the strategic imperatives derived by the Council for submission to the Florida Board. Mr. Moore requested that any presentation of financial data related to expenditures per pupil enable the reader to allow for the comparison of expenditures for direct instruction vs. administration. Vice

Chairman Desai asked staff to bring a second draft to the St. Augustine meeting for further discussion.

State University Centers and Institutes

Discussion of this item was deferred to a future meeting.

Other Items of Interest

Dr. Nancy McKee presented language added to the Student Fees chart concerning "Universities Seeking Non-State Agency Status." She said information was added related to the potential impact on the Prepaid College Program if university tuition were to be increased. Dr. Proctor said these charts are for review by the Council before they are distributed to the Florida Board. The Council authorized the distribution of this analysis.

The Council also discussed a staff draft report on Technology in K-12 Education. Ms. Leone shared concern that the State should focus on the number of computers for students. She said that it is vital that each student has computer equipment available to him or her and this should be a continuing goal. Ms. Leone said the recommendation reads that this is a laudable goal but it is highly problematic. She thinks this should be an obtainable goal. Mr. Moore stated that determining whether this is a laudable goal would have to depend on if it is practical. Dr. Proctor suggested that we distribute a draft of the conclusions and recommendations from this report to interested persons for feedback and schedule this item for additional discussion. The Council members agreed.

Public Comment

There was no additional public comment.

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held in St. Augustine on Tuesday, February 12, 2002.

The meeting adjourned at 3:25 p.m. on Tuesday, January 15, 2002.

William B. Proctor
Executive Director