

Minutes of the Meeting of the
COUNCIL FOR EDUCATION POLICY, RESEARCH AND IMPROVEMENT
Wednesday, March 12, 2003
Tampa Marriott Westshore
Tampa, Florida

Members Present: Akshay Desai Bob Taylor
Diane Leone Pat Telson
Bob McIntyre Elaine Vasquez

Members Absent: Philip Morgaman

Mr. Bob Taylor opened the meeting and welcomed everyone.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the January 8, 2003, meeting were approved as circulated.

Chairman's Report

There was no Chairman's report at this time.

Executive Director's Report

Dr. William Proctor introduced Mrs. Elaine Vasquez from Ft. Lauderdale as the newest member of the Council. She was appointed by the Governor and previously served as a member of the Postsecondary Education Planning Commission.

Dr. Proctor discussed a recent meeting in Washington where the Federal Reauthorization of the Higher Education Act was discussed.

Dr. Proctor asked Dr. Pat Dallet to review material related to the Council's responsibility to develop a report card on the progress of Florida's K-20 system. Dr. Dallet referenced a proposed work plan and timeline for presenting the first report card in January 2004, which would include nationally comparable information on Florida's performance as well as selected measures related to the goals established by the Commissioner of Education. He said that Council staff has been working on this assignment with representatives of the Department of Education and a group of national experts has been identified to review and react to what the Council develops. He said that in addition to performance data and other quantifiable measures, an effort will be made to monitor public opinion on the progress being made in education. Mr. Bob Taylor asked if it might be premature to be developing a report card since the new K-20 system is just getting underway. Dr. Proctor said that he would seek clarification on the expectations of the Legislature, but suggested that work continue on the general format and content of the report card so that it will be readily available when needed.

Master Plan

Strategic Imperatives – Pre-K through Third grade was unanimously adopted as a new CEPRI Strategic Imperative and will be added to the “Recommendations for Inclusion as Strategic Imperatives for K-20 Long Range Planning” document.

Teaching Profession – Dr. Jon Rogers reviewed the policy recommendations in the final draft report: *Florida Teachers and the Teaching Profession*. He said that the report focuses on issues of teacher preparation, recruitment and retention and that each recommendation includes supporting implementation strategies. The goal of this report is to ensure that “the critical link between the student and the system at all levels is provided by the highest quality and most motivated teachers available – in numbers sufficient to meet the needs of the system.”

A number of education stakeholders testified on the issues and recommendations in the report. Dr. Catherine Emihovich, Dean of the University of Florida College of Education, expressed appreciation for the strong support for teacher preparation policies in the draft report. She reviewed the importance of strong teacher induction programs, the continuing professional development of current teachers, infusing technology into instruction, preparation for students with special needs, stronger leadership preparation models for schools, and the need for strong research and evaluation for accountability purposes. Dr. Richard Kunkel, Dean of the Florida State University College of Education, stressed the importance of the first recommendation that elevates the broad priority of teacher education and the second recommendation that focuses on program outcomes and assessment and places the responsibility on the performance of program graduates. Ms. Maria Stallions, representing Sister Jeanne O’ Laughlin of Barry University, presented a letter that supports flexibility and high standards within the state approval process, and calls for the avoidance of the duplication of required testing. Mrs. Kathleen Conner, National Board Certified Second grade teacher from Marion County, addressed the value of national board certification for teachers and for Florida schools and thanked the Council for making national board certification a priority in the report. She said that the NBCT process is a performance-based process that recognizes teacher leadership and added that raising the bar for teachers, in effect, raises the bar for students. Dr. Jeff Cornett, University of Central Florida College of Education, echoed support for the Council’s report and recommended the integration of character education in the Master Plan. Dr. Proctor confirmed that the chapters of the Plan will be integrated and that character education will be addressed through a Council subcommittee.

In a review of the draft, Mrs. Vasquez suggested additional language that focuses on meeting the educational needs of the diverse nature of the public school population. Mr. Taylor recommended revision of the “challenge” statement, as stated in the “TO THE POINT” document, to emphasize the need to ensure that “quality instruction” exists in Florida schools. In addition to the need for additional teachers, Mr. Taylor offered key priorities that must be highlighted in the report, that teaching must be viewed as a true profession and that the educational environment must support professional growth for teachers.

The Council expressed appreciation to former members Mr. Ed Moore and Mrs. Mary Watts for their work on this report. Following additional discussion, the Council approved the report.

Structure – Mr. Taylor referred the Council to his February 3, 2003, “Set the Agenda” memo on achieving the full potential of our new K-20 system, and noted how it could be considered in the context of what was shared with members by Dr. John Porter about the value of strategically

advancing a few “big” ideas. It was noted that the Master Plan already identifies two “key leverage points” with Career Education and the Teaching Profession (Quality of Instruction), and a third could be establishing a sound base for learning (PK-3). Expanding on Dr. Porter’s statement about the importance of starting with a vision, Mr. Taylor noted that it might be useful to define each of the key leverage points in terms of the Council’s vision of the end result (e.g. the high school graduate of 2010) rather than as separate programs.

Mr. Taylor noted that in order to advance the key leverage points, certain systemic issues would have to be addressed. Mr. Taylor noted that Governance and Funding were two such systemic issues, and that they are being addressed by the Master Plan. Mr. Taylor stressed the importance of treating the key leverage points and the systemic issues as a whole rather than as separate pieces.

The Structure Committee report concluded with an open Council discussion of possible options on how to proceed with the development and dissemination of the Master Plan. Dr. Proctor provided several examples of States that have been particularly successful in using a master plan as a means of assisting State policy makers in setting the agenda for education reform. The importance of using the Council’s vision to guide the content of master plan was reiterated, and it was agreed that further discussion on refining the vision would take place at the next meeting. Mr. Taylor noted that additional information on governance (Kentucky), funding (Edmonton, Canada), and change would also be useful to consider at future meetings.

Career Education and Development – No report was presented at this time.

Funding – Dr. Nancy McKee presented the proposed work plan for the Funding Committee. Dr. McKee and Mr. Bob Cox will be staffing the committee. Dr. McKee presented the fundamental issues that need to be taken into consideration in designing an appropriate approach to funding and the methodology that will be used for the project. Phase I, which will focus on operations, will be completed in November 2003. She said that based on the decisions and policies adopted in Phase I, Phase II will then focus on capital outlay.

Community College Baccalaureate Proposals

Dr. Bob Richburg, President of Okaloosa-Walton Community College, thanked the Council for the opportunity to present the College’s degree proposals. He noted that OWCC produces more degrees per student enrollment with lowest cost and tuition in the State, serves 15,000 people with an FTE of 4,000, and awarded 1,200 degrees in 2001-2002. OWCC has the highest community college graduation in the State, and 50% of the faculty holds doctoral degrees or 30+ hours beyond a bachelor’s degree.

Dr. Richburg described the proposed BAS in Project & Acquisitions Management as flexibly delivered and reflective of the economic mission of area by supporting military employment at Eglin, Hulburt, and Duke Fields Air Force bases. He also noted that there is no comparable program in the area, that there is clear demand by student and employers, and that the proposed program would focus on four curricular options reflecting local hiring needs.

The Bachelor of Science in Nursing was characterized as paralleling the same needs, using the State AS to BS model to move from the Associate Degree in Nursing to the four-year degree. Dr. Richburg noted that the BSN was requested by local health care providers and addresses critical State and local employment needs. The proposed program would provide the traditional BSN

content with a special emphasis on critical experiences in nursing care. Dr. Richburg noted that there is no comparable program in the area.

Mr. Taylor cautioned against the potential duplication of programs, and suggested that he would like to further explore the costs and the issue of community college “mission creep” at a later juncture in order to address the best use of system resources.

Dr. Jill White indicated that the University of West Florida and OWCC are in discussions regarding the joint provision of the BSN. Dr. Parks Dimsdale from the University of West Florida reinforced the university’s desire to participate in offering the BSN in the Ft. Walton Beach area. He stated that UWF has had over 25 years of experience offering the program in other areas, is accredited through 2007, and would be able to move quickly to get Florida Board of Nursing approval to expand to Okaloosa County. He stated that UWF and OWCC work well together and can develop and deliver the program in the same time frame already articulated.

Dr. Mickey Crews from Troy State University, presented information regarding TSU’s BAS in Resources Management, which he indicated is a full program enrolling 95% military members, that has been offered in the Ft. Walton area for 20 years. Dr. Crews stated that the university’s business school is fully accredited by the American Association of Collegiate Schools of Business (AACSB).

Dr. Proctor recommended not taking action on these proposals until the next meeting, suggesting that an overall needs analysis for community college baccalaureate degrees be developed, and that the Boards of Trustees of community colleges and universities should meet to develop a joint program before a community college submits a baccalaureate proposal.

Dr. Proctor also suggested that the funding for community college baccalaureate degrees be examined. Dr. Theresa Klebacha from the Division of Community Colleges stated that once a community college baccalaureate program is established, program enrollments become a part of the SUS for funding purposes.

Ms. Diane Leone expressed concerns about community colleges remaining within their mission to best serve students. Dr. Akshay Desai indicated a desire to further deliberate on the aspect of community college mission next month.

After further discussion, the Council unanimously supported the establishment of a joint nursing program with UWF, and deferred action on the proposed BAS in Project & Acquisitions Management until the next meeting.

Collegiate High School Presentation

At the request of the Council, Dr. Jill White, Academic Vice President at Okaloosa-Walton Community College, made a presentation on the Charter High School which OWCC has operated for almost three years. Enrollment is 240 students and virtually all graduates go on to postsecondary education. In response to a question by Mr. Taylor, Dr. White clarified that students may earn their high school diploma and associate’s degree simultaneously. The school scores in the top five statewide on FCAT and 85% of the graduates are eligible for Bright Futures. In response to Ms. Leone, Dr. White said that the college receives 95% of the public school funds generated by the students who are enrolled. She said that rather than selective admissions, a cross section of the

population is enrolled through a lottery process. Dr. White closed by inviting the Council to hold a meeting at OWCC and visit the school.

Constitutional Amendment

This item was deferred.

Other Items of Interest

Schedule of upcoming meetings:

April 9, 2003	St. Augustine
May 14, 2003	Orlando
June 11, 2003	Ft. Lauderdale
July 9, 2003	Orlando
August 13, 2003	Ft. Myers
September 10, 2003	Tampa
October 8, 2003	Tallahassee

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, April 9, 2003, at Flagler College in St. Augustine.

The meeting adjourned at 2:43 p.m. on Wednesday, March 12, 2003.

William B. Proctor
Executive Director