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Minutes of the Meeting of the
COUNCIL FOR EDUCATION POLICY, RESEARCH AND IMPROVEMENT

Wednesday, April 14, 2004
G-01 Pepper Building
Tallahassee, Florida

Members Present: Akshay Desai Bob McIntyre
Rajendra Gupta Bob Taylor
W.C. Gentry Pat Telson
Diane Leone Harold Wishna

Member Present by Conference Phone: Elaine Vasquez

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

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the February 11, 2004, meeting were approved as circulated.

Chairman's Report

Chairman Desai welcomed Dr. Rajendra Gupta, a physician from Ft. Lauderdale, as the newest member of the Council. Dr. Gupta was appointed by the Speaker of the House to fill the position previously held by Mr. Jacob Stuart. The Chairman indicated that Representative David Mealor, Chair of the House Higher Education Subcommittee, and a Professor and Regional Campus Director for the University of Central Florida, would stop by for brief remarks if his schedule permits. Chairman Desai announced that the next meeting of the Council is scheduled to be held in Ft. Lauderdale on May 12, 2004.

Executive Director's Report

Dr. William Proctor advised that he made presentations on CEPRI's work products to the Education Committees and the House and Senate Education Appropriation Subcommittees. He said he attended the State Board of Education meeting in St. Petersburg and in Tallahassee and provided the Board with an update on the Council's activities and the work plan for the coming year. He said that he also attended the State Board of Education's workshop on Medical Education at the University of South Florida. Dr. Proctor also attended the National Postsecondary Education Cooperative State Indicators Committee in Washington, D.C. He said that he gave a presentation at the SHEEO/IPEDS/NCES national conference on the Changing Directions Project, which is funded by the Lumina Foundation. He also gave a presentation on the University Contracting Study.

Dr. Proctor said that the Career Education Bill was introduced by Senator Carlton in the Senate. He said that the bill went on to the House and is now an amendment. It includes an additional assignment to CEPRI to look at what jobs are more demanding in certain areas of the state.

Mr. Bob Taylor asked about the \$28 million that was to restore the budget for Career Education. Dr. Proctor responded by saying this was not in the budget, but it is negotiable at this point. He said that a portion of it will certainly be restored. Dr. Proctor said that there will probably be a workgroup to review the funding for Workforce Education similar to both community colleges and universities.

Dr. Proctor said that he met with Mr. Frank Ryal, President of the Florida Chamber, Ms. Jane McNabb, Director of the Florida Chamber Foundation, and Mr. Gary Loeffers, Lobbyist for the Chamber. All three were interested in assisting the Council with Career Education and Stay the Course Initiative. Chairman Desai asked Mr. Loeffers if he had a strategy in getting the \$28 million in the budget for workforce funding so that the Council will have a way to implement the initiative. Mr. Loeffers responded by saying certainly and that a game plan needs to be developed so that the Chamber can lobby the Legislature for the restoration and increase of funding. Mr. Loeffers said that the Chamber is willing to be an effective partner. He said that the Legislature hears from the education establishment daily, but not from the business community. Mr. Loeffers said that if we develop a game plan together and partner up with the business community, he believes the Legislature will listen. Mr. Loeffers said that he has been told on numerous occasions that workforce takes the backseat because there is no advocate. Council continued to discuss Workforce Education. Chairman Desai thanked Mr. Loeffers for his time.

Mr. Gentry said that if the Council could effectively eradicate workforce and create Career Education, it would have a tremendous psychological impact. Chairman Desai agreed with Mr. Gentry. Chairman Desai said that the Council needs to work on the marketing aspect. Ms. Diane Leone said she sees an opportunity to create a large initiative that encompasses and deals with several issues; smaller school size, career path, etc., that make up the dynamics and could affect everybody in a positive way.

Dr. Proctor said that the Council of 100 Report addresses the need to make changes in the Merit Program and how to fund higher education. This includes the expansion of the Florida Resident Access Grant and increases in tuition. Mr. Taylor said that the Council of 100 Report has the potential to represent something unique and has excellent data. Mr. Taylor would like to see the Council review the report in preparation for the 2005 Legislative Session. Chairman Desai agreed with Mr. Taylor, but mentioned that we may need to present the report to the Legislature in small phases at different times in order to achieve efficient results. Dr. Proctor suggested that a motion be made for the Council to direct the staff to review and produce a document similar to the review of the Constitutional Amendments. Ms. Leone made the motion and it was seconded by the Council. Mr. Gentry added that staff analyzes to determine if there are any particular political components to the Council's proposal. Council continued discussion. Mr. Taylor suggested that the Council share with the Council of 100, the work that has been completed so that it would benefit their understanding and membership. A motion was made and seconded by the Council.

Representative David Mealor – Chairman Desai introduced Representative David Mealor, Chair of the House Higher Education Subcommittee. Representative Mealor thanked the Council for sharing information and the agendas with him in the past. He said that he appreciates, as a member of the Florida House, the documents that the Council has produced. Representative Mealor said

that he finds this to be invaluable information. He said that the documents that CEPRI has produced have been referred to numerous times by his colleagues.

Mr. Taylor asked what the Council could do to increase awareness of the major issues so that when they are presented to the Legislature there is a better understanding of the importance of the issue. Representative Meador responded by saying, using workforce as an example, the problem with workforce is that it is disjointed. He said that there is a K-12 and community college delivery system and sometimes the two don't interact, and when they do interact there are conflicting messages. He said that there needs to be better coordination and planning. He said the question is how do you take the disjointed parts from the public policy and funding arena and bring them together in a more appropriate manner. Chairman Desai thanked Representative Meador for coming to the Council meeting.

Legislative Update

Chairman Desai introduced Mr. Mike O'Farrell, Staff Director, Senate Education Committee. Mr. O'Farrell said that he appreciates all the work that CEPRI does. Mr. O'Farrell said that the key to career education is money. He said that if the program is not a spending priority, you will not have a beefed-up program. Mr. O'Farrell said that for years different committees worked on developing a funding scheme for Career Education. It seemed to work on paper, but when in practice, did not work because all the elements were not taken into consideration. He said that workforce has been left out because of other priorities. Mr. O'Farrell suggested that the Council members get involved with their local candidates and discuss the Career Education issue. He said that champions need to be identified. Mr. O'Farrell said that the Council needs the Chamber and Council of 100 behind them.

Dr. Proctor thanked Mr. O'Farrell for his time.

State Board of Education/Board of Governors' Report

Chancellor Debra Austin said that the State Board of Education is engaged with legislative issues that affect all of K-20. She said that the SBOE feels strongly about Stay the Course. She said that the SBOE feels that the reforms the state is making in education will have long term benefits for Florida. Chancellor Austin said that there should be better prepared students for universities because of early preparation. She said that she is delighted with the reforms that are being made at the K-12 level. She said that exciting possibilities at the university level should happen in the next few years.

Chancellor Austin said that the BOG is embarked upon the development of a strategic plan for the public universities in Florida. Chancellor Austin thanked Dr. Proctor and staff for all the help that is provided to the Board of Governor's and her staff in trying to prepare the State of Florida for the years to come.

Chancellor Austin said that the BOG is looking at how capital outlay requests are received at universities. The PECO dollars are limited and there needs to be more efficient and effective utilization of PECO dollars. She said that her staff and CEPRI are working together on this and that CEPRI is finding out what is happening in other states.

Chancellor Austin said that the SBOE and BOG are working together on the Accountability Committee. The SBOE and BOG agree on several measures. She said the one that is outstanding is the Student Learning Assessment. Chancellor Austin said that at the next BOG meeting the members will discuss models that will help assess student learning objectives in the universities.

Chancellor Austin said that one of the goals of the BOG was to clarify the responsibilities of the university's Board of Trustees, Board of Governors, and the State Board of Education. Information was sent out to the universities for feedback. The feedback indicated that the universities were not on the same page and the proposed legislation did not go forward this session.

Chairman Desai thanked Chancellor Austin for her time in attending the Council meeting.

Ed Moore, Independent Colleges and Universities

Mr. Ed Moore said that he is very pleased with both work of the Council and the Council of 100 Report. Mr. Moore said groups like CEPRI are needed to help look at issues differently. Mr. Moore extended his desire to work with CEPRI on issues that he can help with. He thanked the Council for recognizing him. Mr. Taylor suggested that Mr. Moore come back again and share input on certain issues. Chairman Desai thanked Mr. Moore for coming to the meeting.

Master Plan

Funding Issues – Dr. Proctor introduced Ms. Jeanine Blomberg, Deputy Chief of Staff, Department of Education. Ms. Blomberg discussed the ten percent performance funding. She said that the SBOE and the BOG approved the overall measures. Ms. Blomberg discussed the A Plus Plan. She agrees we need to stay the course. She said that students are showing progress. Ms. Blomberg addressed school recognition and how schools utilize the funding. Chairman Desai thanked Ms. Blomberg for her report.

Mr. Bob Cox presented an overview of the Legislative appropriations conference process and provided a summary of the House, Senate, and Governor's allocations to the Department of Education and each educational delivery system.

Leadership Issues – Dr. Jon Rogers provided an update of research activities regarding the school leadership project. Demographic data are being compiled by Dr. Simmie Raiford in order to develop a profile of our state's school leader workforce. Enrollment data on Florida's education leadership graduate and certificate programs has also been requested from the universities. Staff is also conducting a review of national and Florida research on best practices of training and professional development programs for school leaders. Dr. Rogers reported on plans to bring together panels of current principals and superintendents at future Council meetings in order to seek direct input on issues of school governance, operation, and accountability. Mr. Taylor reiterated his interest in identifying optimum conditions and structures that will allow school leaders to be most effective in their jobs.

Career Education – Mr. Juan Copa presented an overview of the committee's March 31, 2004, meeting at Orange Park High School. The committee meeting included a tour of Orange Park High School's Academy of Engineering and Design Technology, as well as a roundtable discussion with school district, community college, and Department of Education representatives regarding the committee's draft report. Staff was directed to continue to work with committee members in

investigating career academies, as well as other high school reforms, as it prepares the committee report and recommendations.

Early Learning – Dr. Glenda Rabby provided the Council with an update of several legislative bills relating to early learning. She noted that both the House and the Senate had proposed bills to implement the constitutional mandate for a high quality universal pre-kindergarten program. Those bills and their committee substitutes were widely different from the proposal issued by the governor’s office and very different from the recommendations contained in the Universal Pre-Kindergarten Council’s report completed last fall. Dr. Rabby noted that the House Bill (HB 821) was basically a voucher program that would provide \$2,500 per student to parents of 4 year olds to attend a public, faith-based, or home schooled program. Under the House version, the Pre-Kindergarten program would have limited accountability and no accreditation standards. The Senate Pre-Kindergarten Bill (SB 3036) is based on a pilot summer program in the public schools and a 540 year long program offered by public or private providers. Child care personnel must have a CDA (Child Development Associate) and complete an emerging literacy training course approved by the Department of Education. Dr. Rabby underscored the fact that it was still not clear what form the final legislation (if any) would take. The major conflicts throughout the process have been between those child care advocates who want to ensure that the state controls the quality of the program, including specifying the parameters of Gold Seal programs, and those private providers who want to retain control over their own curriculum, teacher standards, and accountability measures. In addition, the Legislature has not been able to agree on what constitutes a “high quality” Pre-K program or how to assess student achievement, program outcomes, and teacher qualifications.

Dr. Rabby briefly reviewed other related early learning issues including the SRUSS (School Readiness Uniform Screening System), Third Grade FACT scores and retention policies, and the Reading First program and funding. Chairman Desai noted that it was very important for the Council to include all of early learning (Pre-K through Third Grade) in its Master Plan Initiatives. He and other members agreed that the Council will have an opportunity to weigh in on the Pre-K issues before next session when many of the program particulars (including funding) will be decided. Chairman Desai reiterated that the Council should focus on what a Third Grader should know and be capable of as a “final product” of the early learning experience. Mr. Gentry agreed, but stated that in light of the current situation and what appears to be an impasse in the legislature regarding the parameters of the Pre-Kindergarten program, the Council should make recommendations for how a quality Pre-Kindergarten program should be constructed and have those recommendations ready long before the 2005 Legislature. Council members agreed that that would be the most appropriate starting place for the Early Learning Master Plan Initiative.

Stay the Course – Dr. Pat Dallet reviewed the concept paper that had been submitted for possible foundation support and indicated that this would serve as the basis for a full proposal which has been requested. Mr. Gentry suggested that any document on this topic that is shared with the public should clearly and concisely illustrate what the “course” is. Dr. Dallet agreed and indicated that regardless of whether this particular proposal is approved, the process of outlining the rationale for staying the course in writing should be helpful as this concept continues to be developed. Mr. Taylor requested documentation of the history of prior major education reform efforts such as that which has been compiled by the Koret Commission in relation to **A Nation at Risk**. Chairman Desai said that any message directed at local champions for education reform should be simple, emotional, and engaging. Dr. Dallet said that several of the strategic partners identified for this effort, the Florida Chamber and World-Class Schools Foundations, have identified a cadre of 5,000

educations, business, and other local leaders who represent an excellent base for any future communication efforts.

Other Items of Interest

The Council discussed the schedule for future meetings and made a few changes.

Dr. Proctor shared the letter from the Governor on the Board of Governors and University Boards of Trustees with the Council. He said that the Council may want to endorse the contents of the letter. Chairman Desai said that he would agree to this. Mr. Wishna moved to endorse the letter and it was seconded by the Council.

Dr. Proctor shared the letter from the Board of Governors with the Council. Dr. Proctor said that Mr. John Dasburg would like CEPRI to orchestrate the project. Dr. Proctor said that he would bring a proposed model of what it should contain to the next meeting.

Dr. Proctor also shared the letter from Representative David Simmons regarding In-Service Education and Public Broadcasting with the Council. Dr. Proctor said that study outlines on both topics will be prepared for the next meeting.

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, May 12, 2004, in Ft. Lauderdale.

The meeting adjourned at 2:27 p.m. on Wednesday, April 14, 2004.

William B. Proctor
Executive Director