

Minutes of the Meeting of the
COUNCIL FOR EDUCATION POLICY, RESEARCH AND IMPROVEMENT
Wednesday, June 11, 2003
Florida Atlantic University Downtown Campus
Ft. Lauderdale, Florida

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

Members Absent: Pat Telson

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

Welcome

Chairman Desai introduced Dr. Will Holcombe, President of Broward Community College. Dr. Holcombe welcomed everyone to the meeting. Dr. Holcombe said that BCC has a partnership with FAU. He said that enrollment for BCC is booming. He said that access to higher education in Florida is an issue. Dr. Holcombe said they have estimated that about 3,000 students will be turned away in the fall semester because of the inability to hire more professors. He said that the increase will continue through the end of the decade.

Chairman Desai asked Dr. Holcombe if the increase on tuition would impact enrollment. Dr. Holcombe responded by saying that they won't see an impact on enrollment because their demand far exceeds their ability to supply. He said it may cause some students not to go to school. Dr. Holcombe said that increase in tuition would not affect the needy students because of the PELL Grant. He believes the biggest impact would be on international students. Dr. Holcombe said it cost \$6,500 for an out-of-state student to attend BCC.

Vice Chairman Bob Taylor asked Dr. Holcombe how to best attack Career Education and which way to go. Dr. Holcombe responded that most people don't know what Workforce Development is. They're not sure if it's the federal program that runs through the local workforce development boards in this county, or whether it's what K-12 or community colleges does. Dr. Holcombe believes that CEPRI could be the kind of group to figure out how to make the term, Workforce Development, be more meaningful to decision makers.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of May 14, 2003, were approved as circulated.

Chairman's Report

Chairman Desai noted that his first priority is to contact the Speaker and Governor to appoint new members to fill the vacancies on the Council.

Chairman Desai noted that he has written to the State Board of Education and the Board of Governors regarding involvement in the Council meetings. He received a response from Ms. Caroline Roberts, Vice Chair of the Board of Governors, expressing an interest to be an item on the Council's agenda as well as CEPRI being an item on the Board of Governor's agenda.

Chairman Desai noted that a new responsibility to review the funding formula for the universities has been assigned to the Council and due before November 1, 2003.

Vice Chairman Taylor suggested that the Chairman send a letter to the Governor regarding the Council's involvement with the State Board of Education and the Board of Governors. He said the Governor has expressed an interest in CEPRI being fully involved in all the initiatives of K-20.

Executive Director's Report

Dr. William Proctor announced that effective July 1, 2003, CEPRI will report administratively to the Auditor General's Office. The CEPRI budget will be contained within the Auditor General's budget. Dr. Proctor also noted that he will not be able to fill the two staff vacancies due to budget issues this next fiscal year. Dr. Proctor said that he would like to discuss, later in the year, the Council not meeting in March or April, which is during the Legislative Session. This will provide more time to work directly with the members and staff in the House and Senate.

Dr. Proctor said that he attended the State Higher Education Executive Officers annual planning meeting in Denver. He said that all states in attendance expressed the same concern: "how to come up with innovative ways to fund higher education in the coming years."

Dr. Proctor said that he met with John Winn, Deputy Commissioner for Accountability, Research and Measurement, Department of Education. He said that they discussed several ways for the State Board of Education and CEPRI to collaborate and not duplicate activities in areas of common interest. Dr. Proctor noted that CEPRI is now a separate item on the State Board of Education's agenda. He said the State Board of Education has requested a copy of CEPRI's work plan.

Dr. Proctor noted that he has talked with Mr. Joe Heel of McKinsey and Company. Mr. Heel is also a member of the Council of 100, Higher Education Funding Committee. Dr. Proctor noted that they discussed working cooperatively on CEPRI and Council of 100 products. Dr. Proctor noted that he will send Mr. Heel recent work that CEPRI has done in funding areas and also share with him the project timelines and work plans on the funding issues identified by the Council and Legislature.

Dr. Proctor said that he shared a draft of the newsletter with Ms. Diane Leone and Ms. Elaine Vasquez. The Council continued further discussion regarding the newsletter. Chairman Desai suggested that Dr. Proctor summarize his experience at the SHEEO meeting in Denver, and any other future meetings he attends, for the newsletter.

Chairman Desai suggested that Council staff compile a list, by the July Council meeting, of strategic visionary systemic thinkers. He said that the Council will select from this elite group of people who will be invited to the Tuesday evening meetings to share their thoughts on how things could be better, which could help the Council.

Master Plan

Vice Chairman Taylor summarized the work on the overall vision statement and opened the floor for discussion. Chairman Desai suggested adding the creation of knowledge workers as a goal or leverage point. Ms. Diane Leone asked about the priority areas and whether effective learning should be included along with funding, teachers, and leadership. Dr. Proctor asked if the second bullet under the vision address quality programs sufficiently. After further discussion, Ms. Leone agreed that funding, leadership, and teachers should remain the initial priorities. The members and staff proceeded to discuss the remainder of the document making editorial and substantial suggestions. In the last section on Transformation Initiatives, Dr. Proctor said that he had polled other SHEEOs in Denver and learned that most energy has focused on specific programs (technology) or sectors (K-12) rather than across the board. Ms. Leone asked about our role in the regard and the Chairman replied that we will identify problems and potential solutions and look for champions to address these. Dr. Proctor said that he has asked staff to examine how other countries maintain consistency and continuity in education reform rather than frequently changing direction.

In the discussion of the major initiatives, Ms. Leone asked about where structure (e.g. Middle school/K-8) would be addressed. Mr. Taylor suggested under **Initiative 6. A well coordinated system**. Dr. Proctor said that the last bullet under this item would be amended to read: **coordination "within and between" educational sectors**, to address Ms. Leone's concern.

Vice Chairman Taylor said that the draft would be modified to reflect all suggestions made by the members and staff and presented for action.

Funding - Dr. Nancy McKee presented a work plan for the study on university contracts. In the FY 2003 – 2004 General Appropriations Act, the Florida Legislature directed CEPRI to study the feasibility of 5-year contracts between the State of Florida and the University of Florida, Florida State University, and Florida International University. The proviso specified certain issues to be reviewed in the study, which is due to the Legislature by November 1, 2003. The Chairman indicated that the contract should include specific performance criteria while giving flexibility to the institutions. He said that baseline outputs should be determined and asked if we would be buying something more in exchange for guaranteed predictability and flexibility.

Dr. McKee also presented a work plan for a study on funding workforce development. In a letter to Dr. Proctor, Senator Jim King, President of the Florida Senate, directed CEPRI to “develop a funding methodology for workforce/career education that provides for long term stability, accommodates growth, and rewards program performance.

The Council agreed that the university contracts study would be given top priority for completion by November. The Chairman directed staff to ask Senator King if a December time frame would meet his needs for the workforce study.

Mr. Bob Cox presented information on public concerns related to education. The Council discussed recent surveys that show public support in Florida for education funding is growing while support for expenditures on highways, the environment, and combating crime is on the decline. It was noted that despite these trends, the percent of state and local government spending on education in Florida is well below the national and regional averages, while the percentage of all spending on transportation, public safety, and the environment is 7% above the national average and 8% above the average of the southern region. Mr. Cox noted that the primary public concerns related to K-12 education in national polls are issues related to parental involvement and discipline with some additional but lesser concerns about crowded classrooms and academic standards. The primary public concern related to postsecondary education is the cost of attending college. Mr. Cox presented data that showed tuition is not the major cost associated with college. Tuition increases contribute much less to cost than does failure to graduate within four years.

Invited Speakers/Public Testimony

Ms. Elaine Vasquez introduced several community leaders who she invited to discuss their involvement in education initiatives.

Ms. Linda Stepenovitch from Bank of America has been involved for seven years with Take Stock in Children. She said that recently it became apparent that 120 participants were in danger of not completing the program. She said that, thanks to Dr. Proctor, the program now provides a standard progress report to project mentors. They have also developed a community resource guide for the program. Mr. Bob McIntyre stressed the importance of proper screening and working with other programs such as Drop-Out Prevention and College Read-Out to ensure that all students are placed appropriate to receive the support they need.

Ms. Jo Moskowitz, Vice President, Citrix Systems, discussed the Leadership Boot Camp for Broward and Palm Beach school districts that will take place at the University of Virginia in July. Citrix has made a \$250,000 donation to the South Florida Community Leadership Foundation which is also supported by Bank of America, Home Depot, and other partners. The goal of the project is to grow leadership from within. Mr. Taylor said this was an interesting project with outstanding sponsorship. He asked about school board participation and Ms. Moskowitz replied that several board members are attending. Mr. Taylor also noted the involvement of both the Education and Business Schools at the University of Virginia in this training and said that feedback on the impact of the respective schools would be of interest.

Dr. Joy Stephens, Vice President of the Davie Campus, Florida Atlantic University, discussed the goals of the Two Plus Two System to be both affordable and accessible. She described the typical students served, work 30 or more hours a week and are 28 – 29 years of age on the average. She said that the Florida Atlantic University/Broward Community College partnership of Davie goes back more than 20 years, but that it has grown dramatically in the last 10 years. There are now over 6,000 Florida Atlantic University students and 35 full degree programs. Mr. Taylor asked about logistics and Dr. Stephens replied that what had been limited night courses have now expanded to a full schedule including weekends. He also asked about a three plus one approach to teacher education. Dr. Proctor replied, this would depend on what the departments and faculties were willing to do.

Lumina Project – Trends in Student Aid and College Pricing

Dr. Dallet reported that Florida was one of five states selected to participate in the Changing Director Project supported by the Lumina Foundation and Western Interstate Commission on Higher Education. The goal of the project is to effectively integrate funding, student financial aid, and tuition policies to promote student participation and completion. He said that the grant fits well with the current focus of the Master Plan on funding and that it has provided the impetus for two research activities related to student aid. First, Trends in Student Aid and College Pricing an overall accounting of all sources and levels of aid for the five year period 1997 – 2001. This timeframe coincides with the initiatives of the Bright Futures Scholarship and will provide a context for policy makers as they consider modifications to state aid programs and tuition policies. Dr. Dallet said that funding for state aid programs represent less than 10% of the \$4 billion in aid available to assist Florida students in 2001 on the forum of grants, scholarships, loans, dual enrollment, and other support. He said that this report was nearing completion and was being prepared with funding support from the Office of Student Financial Assistance in the Department of Education.

Dr. Dallet said the second initiative is an analysis of the effectiveness of the state's three major aid programs: 1) Florida Student Assistance Grant, 2) Florida Resident Access Grant, and 3) Bright Futures, which collectively account for more than 90% of all state aid. He said that additional information on this will be provided in the next two months. Mr. Taylor questioned a statement in the materials summarizing the Trends report that indicated that proposed tuition increases could have serious implications on affordability for students. It was agreed this should be clarified to specify part-time and non-traditional students and those with significant financial need for whom additional aid is not provided.

Other Items of Interest

There were no other items of interest.

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, July 9, 2003, in Orlando.

The meeting adjourned at 2:40 p.m. on Wednesday, June 11, 2003.



William B. Proctor
Executive Director