

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
Wednesday, July 9, 2003
Sheraton Suites Orlando Airport
Orlando, Florida

Members Present: Akshay Desai Bob Taylor
Diane Leone Pat Telson
Bob McIntyre Harold Wishna

Members Absent: Elaine Vasquez

Chairman Akshay Desai opened the meeting and welcomed the Council members. Chairman Desai introduced Mr. Harold Wishna, the Council's new appointed member.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of June 11, 2003, were approved as circulated.

Chairman's Report

Chairman Desai said that he recently met with the Governor who expressed an interest to meet with members from CEPRI and discuss the vision statement. Chairman Desai said that a meeting will be scheduled in August or September. He said that the Governor was quite pleased with CEPRI's desire to work with the State Board of Education and the Board of Governors.

Executive Director's Report

Dr. William Proctor said that he attended the State Board of Education (SBE) meeting on June 17, 2003. He said that CEPRI is a continuing item on their agenda. Dr. Proctor said that he provided the members with an update on CEPRI's activities and plans for the coming year. He said that the next SBE meeting is scheduled on August 18, 2003. There will also be a workshop scheduled for August 17, 2003, on the budget and community college baccalaureate degrees. Dr. Proctor noted that he plans to attend both meetings.

Dr. Proctor said that he attended the annual meeting of the Southern Regional Education Board. He said that the major discussions were funding for education, leadership, and implementing "No Child Left Behind."

Dr. Proctor noted that the newsletter is in the final stages of being completed. He asked the members if they had any comments. Mr. Bob Taylor suggested that pages 5 and 6 be flipped. Mr. Taylor said that the Perspective of School Districts is more of a priority topic than a review of what CEPRI has done. The Council continued further discussion regarding the newsletter.

Dr. Proctor said that Dr. Pat Dallet and Mr. Jay Pfeiffer attended a conference on State Accountability for Student Learning. The discussion was on the K-20 Accountability System, the statewide report card, and the potential for promoting improved performance.

State Board of Education

Dr. R.E. LeMon, Vice Chancellor, Division of Colleges and Universities, State Board of Education, said that a law passed this past session, in House Bill 915 that requires a systemic K-20 from K-12 through community colleges workforce and universities, and a systemic accountability plan. He said that the accountability plan requires 10% of funding for public education institutions. Dr. LeMon said the message from the Board of Governors and the Chancellor is that they are interested in working with CEPRI, on CEPRI's projects, and including them in the projects the Board of Governors is addressing. He said that the Board of Governors is organized into several committees including finance, audit, accountability, strategic planning, and facilities.

Master Plan

Overall Vision/Goal - Mr. Taylor reviewed the components of the draft transformation document and opened the floor for discussion. It was agreed that the vision should be amended to say **“our students are a state treasure....”**

Mr. Wishna stressed the importance of getting any performance information to the school level along with goals for improvement.

The Chairman then invited comments from the public. Ms. Susan Lehr, Vice President, Florida Community College of Jacksonville, complimented the work of the Council on this document.

The Council discussed the draft summary statement and agreed to provide any suggested changes to the Chairman. The document was approved subject to any editorial revisions accepted by the Chairman. A distribution plan was reviewed and approved which will begin with the Chairman personally contacting key state leaders, followed by broader distribution to the media and others.

Leadership/Force for Change - Dr. Pat Dallet briefly reviewed the timeline related to the Leadership Initiative. Mr. Taylor requested reversing the items scheduled for September and October to focus first on the scope of what is to be managed followed by how it is managed.

Ms. Diane Leone referenced the requested list of potential speakers and Dr. Dallet distributed a draft including individuals in Florida and nationwide. Several members suggested additional individuals and the Chairman requested the names of individuals who had made a difference at the operational level in education, business, or any area where the lessons learned would be applicable to what the Council is addressing in the Master Plan. He said that, given the current budgetary constraints faced by the State, individuals who have effectively made use of existing resources would be of particular interest.

Regarding the Force for Change initiative, Dr. Dallet reviewed the last of potential collaborative partners included in the mail out. He described the World Class Schools initiative begun by the Florida Chamber and its foundation in the early 90's. He said that in the first five years the program trained over 5,000 business and community leaders on effective school involvement and

improvement. He noted that the Chamber Foundation is also completing work on a new Cornerstone Report and that the executive director is open to meeting with representatives of the Council to discuss mutual priorities. Two other initiatives of interest are a Task Force on Constitutional Accountability that has been established to address public school funding and a local council in Palm Beach County that is broadly representative of business, education, and community leaders and is focusing attention on the priorities identified in the Council's transformation document.

Legislative Assignments

University Contracts - Representatives from four of the five universities involved in the study on the feasibility of 5-year university contracts participated in a panel discussion concerning the contracts. On the panel were Dr. John Hitt, President of the University of Central Florida; Dr. David Colburn, Provost of the University of Florida; Dr. Larry Abele, Provost of Florida State University; and Dr. Mark Rosenberg, Provost of Florida International University.

Dr. Abele explained that multi-year contracts would improve the universities' ability to plan and would provide funding stability. Dr. Hitt indicated that it is necessary to determine what institutions need to look like to meet the needs of the state and suggested that the contract is a wonderful opportunity to talk about this at the level of quality that's needed. He said that the relationship between mission and budget needs to be discussed. Panel participants also discussed the difficulty of funding enrollment when no additional funds are provided for growth, possible penalties for non-performance, how contracts would benefit the Legislature and students, as well as the universities, and how UF/FSU's proposed contract would affect Bright Futures.

Dr. Nancy McKee indicated that CEPRI staff contacted staff in other states and also conducted a literature review to determine if any other institutions were functioning under a contract similar to the one being proposed by Florida's universities. She presented information on the Colorado School of Mines, St. Mary's College in Maryland, and Pennsylvania State University. Chairman Desai indicated that Florida's contract needs to be more specific and have more teeth in it than the agreements presented from the institutions in other states. Mr. Taylor said that the Council needs to begin reviewing next month the elements that should go into a contract. He also said that the Council should be thinking in terms of how the contract could be good for the Legislature, the relationship of the contract to the rest of education, and why the contract could be good for students. The Council needs to create a win-win-win situation. Ms. Leone asked how the contract would impact the rest of the budget and whether students were suffering now.

Dr. McKee also presented information related to the administrative and budgeting flexibility that Florida universities have now that they did not have prior to the restructuring of education.

Mr. Bob Cox presented information on tuition, financial aid, and student access related to the university contract study. Florida's relatively inefficient provisions for financial access were discussed. It was noted that Florida's low tuition and low spending on need based aid provide an opportunity for increasing tuition revenue to the institutions while expanding access through need based aid. The impact of expanding the contract study to 5 institutions that encompass 75% of the

system enrollment was also discussed. The presentation and discussion concluded that:

- Current financial policies are inefficient in providing access.
- New policies need to balance tuition revenue and student costs.
- Contract provisions may need to be different for each university.
- Untapped tuition revenues provide an opportunity for dramatic change.

No Child Left Behind

Dr. Proctor discussed the changes to the No Child Left Behind paper. Dr. Proctor said that the Council needs to stay the course with the A Plus Plan and not let the No Child Left Behind detract the Council's attention away from the A Plus Plan. Dr. Proctor explained that the A Plus Plan is state funded and No Child Left Behind is federal. He noted that he believes the A Plus Plan has the Council headed in the right direction.

Mr. Taylor commented on the state to state comparison. He said that some states have not progressed far, but will probably come out well. Mr. Taylor said that we need to provide a statement of the net impact.

A motion was made and seconded to have the Chairman review the final paper after it has been circulated to the members.

Lumina Project – Trends in Student Aid and College Pricing

Dr. Dallet referred to the report included in the mail out and said that copies of a concluding section were provided at the meeting for review and comment. He said that this report is basically an accounting of all sources of student assistance for the period of 1997 – 2001, which will be useful as the Council proceeds with its examination of overall education funding policies.

Other Items of Interest

It was agreed that a conference call be scheduled for Thursday, October 23, 2003, at 10:00 a.m. to address current study assignments and other Council business.

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, August 13, 2003, at Florida Gulf Coast University in Ft. Myers.

The meeting adjourned at 2:45 p.m. on Wednesday, July 9, 2003.



William B. Proctor
Executive Director