

**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, September 10, 2003  
Hilton Tampa Airport Westshore  
Tampa, Florida

**Members Present:** Akshay Desai                      Bob McIntyre  
William Gentry                                      Pat Telson

**Members Absent:** Diane Leone                      Harold Wishna  
Bob Taylor    Elaine Vasquez

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

**Approval of Minutes**

The minutes of the August 13, 2003, meeting were approved with one correction noted by Dr. Debra Austin. On page 3 (fourth paragraph), last sentence should read: Dr. Austin said that they have received from the universities approximately **\$500** million in PECO requests.

**Chairman's Report**

Chairman Desai reported on the August meeting with the Governor in which Dr. William Proctor and Mr. Bob Taylor also participated. He said the meeting went well and was part of CEPRI's effort to maintain open communication with key leaders.

**Executive Director's Report**

Dr. Proctor said that he is scheduled for a follow-up meeting with Ms. Pat Levesque, the Governor's Deputy Chief of Staff, later this week. He reported on a recent meeting with Representative Simmons, Chair of the House Education Appropriations Committee. Representative Simmons was particularly interested in the issue of access and the Council's university contract study. Dr. Proctor said that during the week of September 15, 2003, he will meet with the Vice Chair of the Board of Governors, discuss the Council of 100 research project related to higher education funding with representatives of the McKinsey Group, participate in the State Board of Education meeting, and attend a committee meeting of the National Postsecondary Education Cooperative (NPEC) on the issue of student success. Dr. Proctor said that he, Dr. Nancy McKee, Mr. Bob Cox, and Dr. Pat Dallet are meeting with staff of the House Appropriations Committee on a variety of issues related to funding and access.

Dr. Proctor mentioned recent inquiries concerning recommended changes to the local education governance structure and he said that there have been no staff or Council recommendations in this

regard. He noted the first issue of Insight did include comparative statistics concerning district size, and board member compensation and, at the request of the members, agreed to include a discussion of this information at the next Council meeting. He said that, overall, the newsletter has generated a number of positive comments.

The proposed meeting schedule for the remainder of the year was addressed and will be posted on the Council's website. At the suggestion of Mr. William Gentry, it was agreed that at least one meeting during the Legislative session might be helpful. Dr. Proctor also suggested the possibility of a weekly call-in meeting during the session.

Dr. Proctor introduced and welcomed Ms. Kristina Goodwin who has been hired to fill the vacancy left by Dr. K.B. Melear who is now on the faculty at the University of Southern Mississippi.

### **State Board of Education/Board of Governors' Report**

Dr. Austin, Chancellor of the Division of Colleges and Universities, reported on the budget request which would provide over a billion dollar increase for K-20 education. She noted that the State Board of Education had asked the Board of Governors to consider including funds for community college baccalaureates in the Board of Governors' budget, and that no decision has been made yet. She also reported on the work of the K-20 Accountability and K-20 Facilities committees.

On behalf of the Board of Governors, Chancellor Austin expressed appreciation for their inclusion in the work of the Council concerning university contracts. She reported on the fall university FTIC enrollments being 37% minority and 48% of the enrollment growth reported as minority, indicating that A+ and One Florida are having a positive impact.

Chancellor Austin said that the Board of Governors' Executive Committee will meet on September 17, 2003, and the full Board of Governors on September 24, 2003. Four goals identified by the Board of Governors include: 1) a strategic plan for the Board of Governors and the university system, 2) an accountability system, 3) an effective funding formula, and 4) additional tuition authority.

Chairman Desai said it was encouraging to hear that the A+ plan is achieving its objectives. Ms. Pat Telson asked if the need for remediation has been reduced in the community colleges. Ms. Sally Kiser from the Division of Community Colleges said that it has been reduced to some degree. Dr. Proctor noted that at the last State Board of Education meeting the superintendents and principals from the six FF schools (two years in a row) were asked to describe their plans for improvement. He said that this is an effective strategy that recognizes that it is not students who are failing, but rather districts and schools that must use a different approach to ensuring success. Mr. Gentry asked about a plan to address the technology requirements contained in No Child Left Behind. Chancellor Austin indicated that Public Schools Chancellor Jim Worford was responsible for overseeing this. Dr. Proctor offered to share a technology assessment developed by Mr. Glenn Mayne who retired from the Council staff in June 2003.

### **Master Plan**

**Major Initiatives** – Dr. Proctor said that one of the initiatives identified was the establishment of a group or coalition of interested parents, students, and other taxpayers who would work to assure continued momentum for the progress realized through the current reforms. He said that in

previous months the Council has met with representatives of such groups as the North Carolina Public School Forum who has had considerable success as an external supporter of education improvement. He said that the goal would be a broad based entity that would assist in sustaining and enhancing the transformation underway both financially and in the voting booth. Chairman Desai referred to this as a constructive legacy.

Dr. Dallet reported on a meeting held earlier in the week with representatives of several business and policy organizations to discuss the need for and feasibility of such a group. He stressed that the Council would not be the proposed group, but would assist in moving it forward if needed. The general consensus was that such a group would be helpful. Representatives of the Florida Chamber indicated that their full Cornerstone Report will be released in October 2003, and a group of this nature, to assist with implementation and follow-up, would play a key role. Other points made included the need for dedicated leadership; effective communications and sufficient financial support; the need to focus on doable deeds, and build on small successes of the outset; and finally, the importance of reorganizing that, while there have been tremendous changes at the state level, the transformation locally will require additional time and effort.

Dr. Dallet said that there have been several organizations developed to address parent involvement beyond individual school issues and shared examples including Parents for Public Schools, a multi-state effort initiated in Mississippi, and the work of the Prichard Commission in Kentucky. He said that next steps include identification of a facilitator to assist with broadening the conversation while focusing on the specifics of such an effort here.

### **Legislative Assignments**

**Workforce Development Education Funding** – Ms. Tara Goodman presented an overview of trends in enrollment and completion in career and technical education programs from 1999-00 to 2001-02. Adult education enrollments increased sharply over the three-year period, particularly in adult basic education and ESOL programs. Mr. Gentry inquired about whether most of the adult education population results from students moving into to Florida or from native students. In addition, the recent trends in appropriations and expenditures per students were presented. These trends demonstrate how funding per enrollment has decreased along with declines in appropriations per enrollments, with the exception of expenditures on Associate in Science programs in the community college system. The results from an open-ended to survey of career and technical education personnel at community colleges and districts were discussed. Ms. Goodman suggested that additional goals for the study should include: 1) emphasize the development of skills in high wage, high skill occupations, and 2) encourage and reward K-20 partnerships.

**University Contracts** – Dr. McKee updated the members regarding follow-up issues from the August Council meeting: (1) Staff met with university representatives on August 21, 2003, to obtain their input regarding the study; (2) University attorneys who responded, as well as legal counsel for the Office of Legislative Services, felt that the new constitutional language regarding education did not create a strong argument for being able to bind a future legislature regarding funding for higher education; (3) A proposal was presented regarding Dispute Resolution. After discussion by the Council, the proposal was amended to reflect that a dispute could be settled in one of three ways – renegotiation, mediation or cancellation. Arbitration was removed as an option.

Dr. McKee then reviewed changes made to the draft contract since the August 2003, meeting. Mr. Gentry questioned having all board members sign the contract, rather than having the chairman sign

it. He said that most entities review and approve matters by consensus or majority, then the chairman signs the agreement. Mr. McIntyre said that having all signatures would be a show of strength. Dr. Desai indicated that having all signatures would be more for marketing, but that Mr. Gentry brought up a good point; usually the president or chairman signs a document and that is probably more feasible than having everyone sign it.

Mr. Bob Cox presented an overview of recent university funding trends and the results of simulation of the UF/FSU contract proposal that is based on comparing actual funding over the past five years to funding that would have been provided under the specifications in the proposed contract. Options for improving the university funding process and the potential for competitive funding for the university system through increased fee revenue were discussed. Alternative models for limited fee flexibility were presented.

After explaining that the UF/FSU proposed 5-year contract contained a funding commitment for Public Education Capital Outlay (PECO) funds, Dr. McKee reviewed the legislative budget process for requesting PECO funds, the Department of Education's (DOE's) creation of the Advisory Council on Educational Facilities, the drastic drop in PECO funds forecasted for FY 2004-2005, and the negative impact UF/FSU's methodology would have on other educational entities over the next few years.

To update the members on performance accountability efforts underway, Dr. McKee gave an overview of the federal Higher Education Act Reauthorization, and Dr. Dorothy Minear from DOE's Division of Colleges and Universities updated the members on DOE's K-20 Accountability Task Force activities.

Ms. Kristina Goodwin presented the use of student and employer satisfaction surveys by Florida's state universities, and Dr. McKee reviewed options for performance expectations in the contract, as well as incentives for meeting performance expectations and penalties for not meeting them. Ms. Goodwin then reviewed university data collection and reporting methods. Mr. Gentry indicated that the contract should require that the institution comply with DOE requirements regarding data collection and reporting, and that relevant Florida statutes be cited.

Dr. McKee and Mr. Cox reviewed staff recommendations regarding the contract and contract specifications. Members agreed that the recommendations could be reflected in the draft report, with the following changes: (1) Arbitration would be removed as an option within the dispute resolution process; (2) The contract would be signed by the chairs of the respective boards after approval by the boards; and (3) Data collection should be addressed in the contract, with relevant statutes being cited. In addition, Mr. Gentry indicated that student tracking should be included as a performance expectation in every contract. Also, Mr. McIntyre asked if performance could be monitored during the year so that assistance could be provided at the time it is needed.

### **Other Items of Interest**

No other items at this time.

**Next Meeting**

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, October 8, 2003, at the Florida Education Center, Tallahassee, Florida.

The meeting adjourned at 1:15 p.m. on Wednesday, September 10, 2003.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bill Proctor". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line underneath it.

William B. Proctor  
Executive Director