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Action Item

Educational Policy and Programs Committee

Approval of the Minutes of the December 3, 2001, Meeting

MINUTES

Educational Policy and Programs Committee

Meeting of December 3, 2001

**Committee
members present**

Kyo "Paul" Jhin, *Chair*
William D. Campbell
Susan Hammer
Evonne Seron Schulze
Howard Welinsky
Alan S. Arkatov, *ex officio*
Carol Chandler, *ex officio*

Other Commissioners present

Melinda G. Wilson
Lance Izumi
Velma Montoya
Robert L. Moore
Guillermo Rodriguez, Jr.
Olivia K. Singh

**Committee
members absent**

Odessa P. Johnson

Call to order

Committee Chair Jhin called the Educational Policy and Programs Committee to order at 3:09 p.m.

**Regional higher
education
enrollment demand**

Commissioner Jhin introduced staff member Stacy Wilson to present the Regional Higher Education Enrollment Demand Study report.

Mr. Wilson stated that this item was presented as an information item at the October Commission meeting, and during that discussion several substantive recommendations emerged which have been brought back as an action item.

On a Statewide basis, he said, California needs to prepare for an additional 714,000 students by the year 2010 and that it will cost the State approximately \$1.5 billion per year in capital outlay cost. One of the questions, Mr. Wilson said, is about the magnitude of that demand on regional bases. Statewide forecasts predict the following:

- ◆ California Community Colleges in every single region in the State can expect significant demand.
- ◆ California State Universities can expect significant demand in nine of the 11 regions.

Mr. Wilson stated that the Commission's regional forecast is consistent with the demographic forecast of the Department of Finance. He said that, when the regional data are merged into a statewide total and compared with the Department of Finance data, it comes very close to the Department of Finance's most recent 10-year projections for the California Community Colleges and to the State University.

He further noted that, if standards are changed, higher education enrollment capacity could be increased without building new facilities. He said the Commission had revisited the previous State Standards and adopted a different set of standards in 1990, however the State has not adopted those standards and thus the capacity figures are still based on the State standards.

Mr. Wilson said that lacking new facilities or better use of existing facilities, the California Community Colleges could anticipate that there will be a deficit of 315,000 students by 2010. The most recent five-year community colleges' plan calls for an additional 677,000 ASF lecture space that would support approximately 105,000 additional FTS and 2.9 million ASF of laboratory space would support approximately 75,000 additional FTS. He said even if this were funded, the California Community Colleges would still face significant regional capacity pressures.

He said, for the California State University, an overall capacity deficit of 88,000 FTS could be expected if there were no changes to the current CSU capacity based on enrolment projections. Mr. Wilson said the State University that the report call attention to the kinds of strategic initiatives that the CSU and the Community Colleges are engaged in to increase capacity without necessarily building new facilities:

- ◆ Increase the use of regional educational centers and joint intersegmental facilities.
- ◆ Expand distance distributed learning opportunities to make learning less dependent on physical space and location.
- ◆ Try to promote more productive learning environments through the use of technology that assists learners in being more proficient so they can realize their educational goals and aspirations more rapidly.

A motion was made to adopt the report; it was seconded and approved by the committee.

Baccalaureate-degree production

Staff member ZoAnn Laurente graphically presented information describing the status of Baccalaureate-degree production in California postsecondary education. The following points were highlighted:

- ◆ California's economy is the 5th largest economy in the world.
- ◆ California's Gross Domestic Product was approximately 1.36 trillion dollars in the year 2000.
- ◆ California accounts for 13.5% of the total U.S. Gross Domestic Product.
- ◆ California's population is 12% of the national total.
- ◆ California has the largest share of total college enrolment at 13.6%.
- ◆ 28% of adults in the State of California hold a baccalaureate degree or higher in the year 2000. For the U.S. as a whole the figure is 25%.

- ◆ In 1990 the proportion of adults in California with a baccalaureate degree or higher was 23%.
- ◆ Californians exceed the Nation in educational attainment at all levels beyond high school.
- ◆ As a proportion of all degrees awarded in the country, California degree production varies by degree level: 12.9% of all associate degrees were awarded in California, 9.5% of all baccalaureate degrees in the nation were awarded in California, 9.4% of all Masters degrees, 11.7% of all doctorates are awarded by California universities, and 11% of all professional degrees.
- ◆ There has been an increase in California degree production at the Associate of Arts, baccalaureate and masters level over the last decade.
- ◆ There has been a slight decrease in doctorate and professional degree production during the last decade.

Information on median personal income by educational attainment was presented, including the following highlights:

- ◆ Regardless of racial or ethnic identity additional educational attainment nets substantial increases in median personal income.
- ◆ California exceeds the National average in average personal per capita income.

Ms. Laurente stated that staff would be working in the future to expand knowledge in the area of workforce development and how degree production influences the California economy.

**Needs analysis
for the
West Hills College
at Lemoore,
West Hills
Community
College District**

Staff member Gil Velazquez referred the Commission to tab 7 in the agenda that relates to a proposal submitted by West Hill Community College District. Essentially it is a proposal to convert an existing State supported center to full college status, effectively making it the 109th campus in the California Community Colleges system. He provided some background information on the West Hills Community College District; some of this information is as follows:

- ◆ The District is located approximately 50 miles south of Fresno.
- ◆ It serves five large, yet sparsely populated counties that include Fresno, Kern, Kings and the eastern portions of San Benito and Monterey counties.
- ◆ The West Hills Community College service area has an economic base that is focused on agriculture.
- ◆ There are double-digit unemployment rates, high poverty rates, and low educational attainment levels in the community.
- ◆ There is a robust population growth fueled by immigration, natural birth rates and the continued expansion of the Naval facility in the city of Lemoore.

Mr. Velazquez stated that the indicators suggest that there is a substantial need for higher educational opportunities. He said the West Hills Community College District has displayed vision and leadership in ensuring that there is equal access to higher educational opportunities in the Central Valley. They have had an existing off-campus center that sets the vision and the stage for this final proposal in their quest to ensure that all communities (including the large Hispanic community located in the service area) have access to higher education.

He noted that all of the requested information requested by staff and set forth on page one of the draft report has now been submitted and is pending review. He introduced Barbara Hioco, president designate of the proposed new campus, to review a handout that illustrates the proposed facility layout and to talk about some innovative aspects of what the College is doing locally in terms of addressing equal access to educational opportunities and increasing transfer rates.

Ms. Hioco stated when the West Hills College achieves “college status,” she will be its first president. She said there are a number of things that make the West Hills College District unique, which presents some additional challenges that are typically not seen in other districts. These include the following:

- ◆ The district covers 3600 square miles of rural area.
- ◆ Population centers are very far apart.
- ◆ Transportation is a large problem in the area.
- ◆ The per capita income of approximately \$15,000 is one of the lowest in the State.
- ◆ Unemployment rates throughout the district are in the double digits.
- ◆ The higher education participation rate is lower in the Kings County area than many other areas in the State.
- ◆ The opportunities for people to access higher education are also very limited.

Ms. Hioco described the center that has been operated by the college for a number of years as having very comprehensive academic, student services and outreach programs. She said there is significant potential for the college to have a positive influence on the economic development of the Kings County area. Ms. Hioco reviewed a handout she provided and noted the following points:

- ◆ The West Hills College District is basically built on collaborations and partnerships.
- ◆ The project began with a donation of 107 acres of land from two farmer families in the area.
- ◆ The City of Lemoore committed one half million dollars to help with off site utilities as the new campus was built.
- ◆ CSU Fresno is in partnership with the West Hills College District with the ultimate goal of a full baccalaureate degree program being offered at the West Hills site.

- ◆ There is a dual admissions agreement that has been operating for several years between CSU Fresno and West Hills Community College.
- ◆ There are agreements and partnerships with the Tachi Yokut tribe to provide educational opportunities to their children, build a cultural center and museum on the campus, and offer support and tutorial services to make the transition of people from the reservation to college a little bit easier.
- ◆ There is work underway with the Lemoore Elementary School District to build a K-8 charter elementary school on the West Hills campus. Both West Hills and California State University Fresno will be using it as an exemplary practices school.
- ◆ The Kings County Office of Education is also interested in building a special education charter school in conjunction with Lemoore Elementary School District.
- ◆ The State Department of Mental Health was instrumental, both financially and in other areas of support, in getting the West Hills College Psychiatric Technician program up and running to meet the needs of a new mental health hospital being built in the District.
- ◆ The Naval Air Station has partnerships with the college as well.
- ◆ A strategic partnership has been entered into with the Cisco Corporation in which the West Hills College site will be used as a beta test site for some of Cisco's newest technology that combines voice, video, and data over IP lines. With the new system, distance education and many other capacities will be greatly enhanced.

Ms. Hioco informed the Commission that a local bond measure was passed that, in combination with Proposition 1A funds, enabled the phase 1 construction of the new campus. She referred to photographs and a site map that detailed what the project will look like when it is complete. She said the facility is set to open in January 2002.

Committee Chair Jhin inquired if the U.S. Dept. of Education has been helpful in regards to Educational Talent Search and Upward Bound. Ms. Hioco responded that the West Hills College currently has Upward Bound operating, the college is ready to submit a Talent Search grant, they have one Title IV grant, and they are submitting an additional Title IV grant proposal.

Commissioner Hammer asked Ms. Hioco when she expects the entire build-out of the campus to be complete. Ms. Hioco replied that it would depend a little bit on growth and mostly on funding. She said she expects the campus to be close to being built out by 2010.

Commissioner Chandler asked what the timeline is for Commission approval. Gil Velazquez stated that this item is presented as an information item and at the next Commission meeting it will be presented as an action item.

Commissioner Chandler stated that she had an opportunity to visit the campus and was extremely surprised to see the type of buildings going up next to Highway 41. She encouraged everyone to support the West Hills College project.

Commissioner Montoya asked Ms. Hioco how many students the new facility will begin with, how many total students are anticipated, and what solutions to transportation issues have been contemplated.

Ms. Hioco responded that the center currently has approximately 3,000 students with 1,800 FTES but she anticipates there to be somewhere between 500 and 1,000 additional students as is indicated by current applications for the spring semester. She added that she expects phase one to top-out between 4,000 and 5,000 students and, when the college is fully built-out, she expects 10,000 to 12,000 total students. In regards to transportation, Ms. Hioco said there is county bus service available and West Hills College actually has a van service that runs from the rural areas to the campus.

Commissioner Rodriguez asked what the advantage is in achieving full college status rather than being a center.

Ms. Hioco responded that having full college status means that the college can expand programs and services to better meet the local needs of the population rather than the needs of the entire district and it creates a little bit of an edge in regards to funding and operational monies.

Commissioner Rodriguez asked Ms. Hioco to help him understand what advantages there are in regards to duplicating administrative functions with a new full campus compared to leveraging the existing infrastructure.

Ms. Hioco responded that the college would not duplicate many administrative services as a matter of philosophy. She said many of the things that can be seen in many larger districts that appear on both campuses, will not actually appear on both campuses of West Hills, but will be handled in a district-wide mode.

Commissioner Rodriguez stated that the Commission might want to stop and look at what the triggering mechanisms are, because there might not be a need for full campus status. He said there might be a need to change the rules or paper policies in order to allow student services and other types of activities to happen at centers without converting a center to full-blown campus status.

Mr. Velazquez noted that there have been discussions about revising the existing guidelines and one of the issues being looked at is how to effectively increase the threshold and then perhaps look at alternative initiatives within the segments that could potentially lead to additional student support services without the trigger event of full-fledged campus status.

Commissioner Schultz asked for clarification on Commission approval options and Mr. Velazquez provided them.

Alan Peterson, a consultant for the district on this proposal, stated that whether or not college status was achieved through the Commission, the district would still be eligible for capital outlay funds at the center. He said it would remain a center and one of the difficulties in that situation is that the center is expected to grow to three times the size of the Coalinga campus, which is the district flagship operation. He said the community and faculty are sensitive to the idea of having a center three times as large as the main campus.

Commissioner Field asked if the Commission will see an operating budget of the institution before the next meeting.

Ex officio Arkatov stated that such is the order.

**Status Report on
the Joint
Committee to
Develop a Master
Plan for Education
– K – University**

Staff member Marge Chisholm stated that the Joint Committee met at a retreat in October and the recommendations developed are preliminary at this time. She said it is dealing with a lot of critical and controversial issues. Senator Alpert, who chairs the committee, has stated that she hopes to have a report ready in January to then be circulated and have public input in Sacramento and throughout the State, in order to have something ready by the end of summer 2002. Ms. Chisholm said 2002 is the last year of the Committee's existence unless it was extended through legislative mandate.

Commissioner Rodriguez asked Commissioner Schultz how the Governance Committee is doing. Commissioner Schultz stated that she has been rather disappointed. She said the Committee started out very well with good ideas and goals and then suddenly one report came back that didn't make any sense, it was not what she had recalled at all, and other members shared her opinion.

She said there has been a lot of vagueness and there was a joint meeting with the Finance Committee that was a complete disaster and that had no meaning at all. She said there are some good ideas but they do not seem to be materializing in a solid fashion. She said it might be a structural problem because it is a large Committee. Commissioner Schultz explained that what the Committee gets back from the staff seems to have come from another meeting and there is frustration among many members.

Commissioner Izumi stated that he has been experiencing many of the same kinds of problems described by Commissioner Schultz in the professional development group. He said one of the problems is that there are 40 people in the working group and it is very difficult to get people on the same page or to even agree on simple things. He added that, from his personal perspective, if the idea of the Legislature was to try to gather up people to think "outside the box" and to come up with innovative types of things, he doesn't believe that the composition of the people in his group is conducive to that. He said all members of the group are from the public education establishment with the exception of himself and one other person. He said if you have people who are mostly faculty, administrators and superintendents talking about the Master Plan, they would all be operating in a certain type of "box". He said there is a lot of self-interest represented as well.

Commissioner Rodriguez stated that he has followed and attended some of the meetings and he thinks K – Higher Education is one big chunk of politics, policy and passion. He said in his group it has been difficult for everyone to understand where each person is coming from. Commissioner Schultz said there are no visionaries and everyone is trying to preserve their self-interest.

Assistant Director Leveille stated that a letter has been sent to Senator Alpert expressing not only interest in the current status of the reports, but expressing interest in sitting down with the Senator to help identify some areas of mutual interest. He said in light of

this conversation it is most appropriate to invite the Commissioners to join Director Fox in meeting with the Senator.

Adjournment Having no further comments or questions Chair Jhin adjourned the Educational Policy and Programs Committee at 4:29 p.m.
