



Education and Local Government Interim Committee

63rd Montana Legislature

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LAURA SANKEY, Staff Attorney
JOY LEWIS, Secretary

MINUTES LOG

Subcommittee on Shared Policy Goals for Education Room 137, Capitol Building February 3, 2014

Please note: These minutes provide abbreviated information about committee discussion, public testimony, action taken, and other activities. To the left of each section in these minutes is a time designation indicating the approximate amount of time in hours, minutes, and seconds that has elapsed since the start of the meeting. This time designation may be used to locate the referenced discussion on the audio or video recording of this meeting.

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Hard copies of the exhibits for this meeting are available upon request. Legislative Council policy requires a charge of 15 cents a page for copies of the document.

SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT

REP. KRISTIN HANSEN, Chair
SEN. FREDERICK (ERIC) MOORE
SEN. SHARON STEWART-PEREGOY
REP. EDITH (EDIE) MCCLAFFERTY

OTHER PARTICIPANTS

DENISE JUNEAU - Superintendent of Public Instruction (OPI)
MADALYN QUINLAN - Chief of Staff - Office of Public Instruction (OPI)
TYLER TREVOR - Deputy Commissioner for Planning Analysis with the Office of the Commissioner of Higher Education (OCHE)
PETE DONOVAN - Executive Director for the Board of Public Education

STAFF PRESENT

PAD MCCRACKEN, Lead Staff
LAURA SANKEY, Staff Attorney
JOY LEWIS, Secretary

AGENDA & VISITORS' LIST

Agenda, [\(Attachment #1\)](#)
Visitors' list, [\(Attachment #2\)](#)

COMMITTEE ACTION

none taken

Call to order, roll call, review agenda - Rep. Hansen, chair

- 00:02:15 Meeting called to order at 8:02 a.m. The secretary called roll. [\(Attachment #3\)](#)
- 00:03:13 Members of the committee introduced themselves.
- 00:04:11 Rep. Hansen gave opening remarks.

Overview and discussion of subcommittee purpose, structure, and process

- 00:04:47 Mr. McCracken gave overview of the reason for the subcommittee. Purpose of subcommittee is to honor request last interim that the Shared Policy Goals be reviewed and possibly revised this interim. Mr. McCracken discussed the documents in the binder. [\(Exhibit 1\)](#) [\(Exhibit 2\)](#)
- 00:14:00 Rep. Hansen said that she and the staff have not done this committee before and would anyone have anything to add or suggest how to run it. Does anyone have any comments?
- 00:14:27 Sen. Moore asked Mr. McCracken about procedure to ELG.
- 00:14:42 Mr. McCracken said that it is agreement between the ELG interim committee and education entities to inform and help guide policies made in subsequent Legislative Sessions.
- 00:15:13 Rep. Hansen summed up by saying we are deciding if goals are valuable and if they are useful to all the entities involved?

MUS Shared Policy Goals and Accountability Measures

• Report on current status/progress toward accountability measures

- 00:19:27 Mr. Trevor referred the committee to green documents, MUS Strategic Plan [\(Exhibit 3\)](#) and Independent Shared Goals [\(Exhibit 4\)](#). He commented on the strategies vs. goals. vs accountability measures.
- 00:25:34 Rep. Hansen commented that as Tyler goes through objectives, please ask him questions.

00:26:11 Mr. Trevor discussed the history of document. First goal relates to student success, next - workforce and economic develop, third is efficiency and effectiveness of system.

00:27:23 Rep. Hansen asked how they are going about it - through OCHE or Regents?

00:27:52 Mr. Trevor explained it's primarily done at the Board of Regents.

00:29:55 Mr. Trevor discussed page 2, Guiding Principles.

00:31:13 Mr. Trevor discussed page 3, College Participation.

00:32:36 Rep. Hansen asked if stuff on page 3 is valuable?

00:33:05 Mr. Trevor said it is, he included national average to give perspective. He puts it in to insure reliability in the data.

00:35:25 Mr. Trevor discussed page 4, Retention & Completion - measuring student success.

00:37:44 Rep. Hansen asked about retention rates remaining essentially the same between 2005 and 2010 for 4-year institutions.

00:37:49 Mr. Trevor said that one of the best practices nationwide in order to move outcomes is called performance based funding. Retention is related to contact with faculty.

00:39:07 Sen. Moore said objectives 1.1.1, 1.1.2, and 1.1.3 are almost inversely correlated. Talk about how you balance those competing metrics.

00:39:47 Mr. Trevor said that the focus on 2-year education and common core course numbering in between is important.

00:41:06 Ms Juneau asked if trend for 2011 is similar.

00:41:23 Mr. Trevor - yes

00:41:26 Ms Juneau asked about percent of first time full time freshman and if this was tracking those graduating seniors again or if this includes if they waited a year before entering school?

00:41:31 Mr. Trevor said we're at 70%, so it didn't change. It includes anyone who is a full time freshman, it includes students who never went to college before so it's not just related to Montana high school graduates.

00:42:51 Mr. Trevor talked about graduation rates. Lower retention rates equate with lower graduation rates. The shocking news is that If students start in University System only 50% will graduate with a 4-year degree.

00:45:11 Mr. Trevor discussed page 5, Financial Aid.

00:47:59 Sen. Moore - had a question on graph Metric 1.2.1: is that per undergrad fte that's eligible for aid or total?

00:48:23 Mr. Trevor said that's total.

00:48:42 Rep Hansen commented on left hand side of page, where MUS state funded need based aid programs. Is that where we get the \$4.6 million total?

00:49:05 Mr. Trevor said yes, that's the total.

00:49:41 Rep. Hansen asked if any programs are more valuable than others? Should there be consolidation?

00:49:58 Mr. Trevor answered yes, we need to continue to think strategically concerning financial aid.

00:50:48 Rep. Hansen would like more information on that.

00:50:55 Mr. Trevor said he would be happy to provide more information.

00:51:18 Mr. Trevor discussed page 6 - Affordability.

00:53:34 Ms Quinlan asked when loan debt is measured, at point of graduation or in first year?

00:53:50 Mr. Trevor said in first year.

00:55:14 Mr. Trevor discussed page 7, K-20 Collaboration

00:57:31 Mr. Trevor discussed page 8, Two-Year Education

00:57:40 Mr. Trevor discussed page 9, Distance Learners

00:59:10 Rep. Hansen asked about distance learners from other institutions - who are they?

00:59:29 Mr. Trevor said doesn't have idea of number.

01:00:21 Mr. Trevor discussed page 10, Workforce Development

01:02:46 Mr. Trevor discussed page 12, Research & Development

01:04:22 Mr. Trevor discussed page 13, Graduate Education

01:05:05 Mr. Trevor discussed page 14, Information Technology

01:06:37 Mr. Trevor discussed page 15, Efficiency

- 01:08:10 Rep. Hansen asked about efficiencies on aid-based programs. When you look at Alaska's \$20,000, do you also note the funding source? She remarked that a lot of that funding seems to be coming from resource development.
- 01:08:49 Mr. Trevor said it's state appropriation plus tuition fees. So a portion of Alaska's is from natural resources.
- 01:09:13 Rep. Hansen asked if they could query fiscal analysts on that. She wants to look at the funding source and would like to know where funds come from.
- 01:09:42 Mr. Trevor discussed page 16, Transferability.
- 01:10:06 Mr. Trevor discussed page 17, Budget Allocation. Short overview on Success Agenda.
- 01:12:02 Sen. Moore has heard about 2-tier, 2-year institutions and how they are funded differently. Are they sustainable long term?
- 01:12:31 Mr. Trevor - what we try to do is leave the governance alone but make the underlying business practices and business operations a connected system.

Public Comment

- 01:13:59 Kelly Cresswell, Vice President of Foundation Activities, Student Assistance Foundation, appreciates having information from the MUS Strategic Plan.
- 01:15:24 Rep. Hansen - Tyler, what kind of information do you have on total scholarship packages that students can access if they work at it?
- 01:15:40 Mr. Trevor said he has that information and can show full picture. \$80 million in Pell awarded compared to \$5 million of state. Forty percent of first time students receive Pell.

BREAK

- 01:27:57 Meeting reconvened at 9:28 a.m.
- 01:28:32 Rep. Hansen discussed changing the agenda. Have discussion of possible changes at end.

K-20 Shared Policy Goals and Accountability Measures

- 01:29:20 Ms. Juneau gave overview. [\(Exhibit 5\)](#) Shared Policy Goals K-20
- 01:34:16 Rep. Hansen acknowledged the good news from the report but asked about the students who were not ready to move on to college or were not doing well. Was that a negative re-enforcement for those students?

- 01:34:48 Ms. Juneau said there has been discussion on what readiness for college means. Discussed "Ed Ready" program.
- 01:36:08 Mr. Trevor commented that this leads back to 2-yr education. They don't need ACT score to go to 2-year school. Interconnection is important.
- 01:36:41 Rep. Hansen commented on the kids that were not going to make it into a 4-yr program but who could potentially make it into a 2-yr program, is there a more robust counseling option for those students?
- 01:37:19 Ms. Juneau said there will be more conversations on this with counselors across the state as program rolls out. Montana Career Information System (MCIS) through the Department of Labor.
- 01:38:17 Mr. Trevor said there is an opportunity in state to consolidate information, higher ed, K-12, and labor market. It goes back to financial aid and loans. It's a communication issue from Education to parents and students.
- 01:38:52 Ms. Juneau said that is correct. Connecting our systems will lend a lot of information to policy makers and provide a look at what is happening in-state with the K-20 system. One other exciting accomplishment was College application week - fees were waived for students applying for school. It was very successful.
- 01:39:59 Rep. McClafferty on Dept of Labor - she asked when a student takes ACT test and they are not ready or don't want to go, does Dept of Labor find options?
- 01:40:34 Ms. Juneau said the department would provide guidance toward a career choice by asking the student a series of questions - referenced Apprenticeship program in Department of Labor.
- 01:41:05 Ms. Juneau - There are other options like career counseling, career and technical education courses, and career technical student organizations.
- 01:41:08 Mr. Trevor said MCIS has capabilities to talk about apprenticeship programs and we can consolidate information to help students and parents but we don't have it all in place yet.
- 01:42:17 Rep. Hansen asks Mr. McCracken to invite MCIS people next time. Isn't there something housed in Dept of Commerce. No, Dept of Labor.
- 01:42:45 Ms. Juneau discussed their coordination and expanding distance learning opportunities. She talked about the Montana Digital Academy.
- 01:43:30 Ms. Quinlan, Chief of Staff, OPI, discussed Goal 4, and how to utilize K-20 data to improve student access and achievement. She shared information on Montana Digital Academy. She shared more information on Distance Learning.
- 01:46:17 Mr. Trevor discussed Developmental Education. Remedial courses discussed and most remediation is related to math.

01:49:41 Mr. Trevor skipped College Participation and discussed Distance Learning and dual enrollment/early college

01:51:12 Rep. Hansen asked if it makes sense to call it same thing.

01:51:22 Mr. Trevor answered that it's really "early college access". Dual enrollment doesn't mean you're getting dual credit.

01:51:46 Rep. Hansen asked what was hang up for not offering credit at the high school if they are eligible for college credit?

01:52:08 Ms. Juneau explained that if student enrolls in college on their own, dual credit would be agreement between the school district and the college offering the credit for it to count as high school and college credit.

01:54:06 Rep. Hansen said those sound like regulatory obstacles. Looking at those issues with task force. Should that task force meet with us? Ms. Juneau said Yes.

01:54:31 Ms. Quinlan commented that they are excited about the work they are doing together between OPI and OCHE and various school groups. K-20 Governance - Data Governance group, electronic transcripts - paid for by a grant from US Department of Education - about \$4 million to pay for process and improve data exchange (K-20 DATA PROJECT), statewide student identifier.

02:02:25 Sen. Stewart-Peregoy arrived at 10:02 a.m.

02:03:34 Ms. Juneau is excited about working with tribal colleges to get them into the system, and develop and track tribal college data.

02:03:54 Rep. Hansen commented on students becoming adults when they enter college and that brings up privacy issues.

02:04:56 Mr. Trevor said we follow state policy and (FERPA) strictly when comes to personally identifiable information. We can send student's name, gender, birthday, and the National Student Clearinghouse (NSC) does the match for us. No release between NSC and OPI of student information.

02:06:35 Ms. Quinlan asked Mr. Trevor to explain the linkage process.

02:07:03 Mr. Trevor explained the process.

02:08:17 Rep. Hansen asked how is it useful?

02:08:24 Mr. Trevor answered that they have to keep building on that in terms of blocks of information. Did they come? Did they return again, did they graduate? It is very useful.

02:08:49 Ms. Quinlan commented on what if the student doesn't want this. The Transcript system does provide a direct service to students.

02:09:30 Mr. Trevor said the most important thing is they follow state and federal policies on privacy. You can't report anything as an individual but only in the aggregate.

Public Comment - none

K-12 Shared Policy Goals and Accountability Measures

- 02:10:51 Ms. Juneau discussed the shared policy goals for K-12 ([Exhibit 6](#)).
- 02:19:50 Rep. Hansen - asked a question concerning teacher licensure.
- 02:21:23 Ms. Juneau discussed rules on accreditation and licensure and how they are currently revising licensure and accreditation standards.
- 02:23:19 Rep Hansen asked about addressing these issues during this revision process.
- 02:23:51 Ms. Juneau discussed goal #2 - improving teaching and student learning by promoting data-driven policy decisions and increasing access to educational information.
- 02:25:03 Ms. Juneau discussed goal #3 - improving student achievement in struggling schools.
- 02:27:33 Ms. Juneau discussed goal #4 - increasing public awareness of and engagement in the K-12 education system.
- 02:28:03 Mr. Donovan does not have anything to add.
- 02:28:16 Ms. Juneau discussed OPI Strategic Directions and Performance Measures 2013-2016 ([Exhibit 7](#)).
- 02:32:42 Rep Hansen - discussed federal diet restrictions and how that ties in.
- 02:32:45 Ms. Juneau commented on "farm-to-school" and other programs in conjunction with the federal guidelines.
- 02:33:29 Rep. Hansen wants update on that. Maybe a 2-page analysis on what's federally driven and we can and cannot do.
- 02:33:54 Ms. Juneau discussed licensure in Professional Education and Preparation Program (PEPP) - focusing on nutrition and activity because of changes.
- 02:34:55 Sen. Moore commented on goal # 3, objective 1 concerning school safety and the Sandy Hook incident.
- 02:35:16 Ms. Juneau said yes. We are talking to AG's office about school safety issues and what that mean - how prepared they are to address needs.
- 02:35:44 Rep. Hansen commented on incorporating into goals, have AG's office attend.

02:36:08 Ms. Juneau commented on more flexible USDA rules that are now permanent.

Review of discussion and action plans

02:36:52 Rep. Hansen summed up that it appears there is value to this and there is no objection to moving forward. There are 3 more interim committee meetings.

02:37:32 Mr. McCracken said aligning subcommittee meetings with ELG meetings save committee budget.

02:37:50 Rep. Hansen discussed hammering out the plans and how 3 hrs might not be enough. April meeting - spend one day on University side. At June meeting, spend day on K-12 and K-20 overlap pieces. Reasonable and useful?

02:38:50 Ms. Quinlan said there is no issue concerning her suggestion but the schedule for agencies to bring forward legislative requests for bill drafting will be presented at the ELG June meeting.

02:39:48 Sen. Moore said flop those and work on K-12 stuff in April?

02:40:02 Mr. Trevor said on same schedule on budget development initiatives.

02:40:28 Rep. Hansen suggested that at the April Meeting, we do one day of each and in June wrapping it up with 1/2 day meeting.

02:41:33 Mr. Trevor suggested condensing and get 1/2 day for the University system and 1/2 for K-12.

02:42:07 Rep. Hansen likes 2 - day idea better. Take morning and do K-12 and afternoon, University system. Should budget two days.

02:43:51 Ms. Juneau asked for a time line to start building information to bring back.

02:44:08 Mr. McCracken wants more specific committee direction on what to incorporate. We can recap but can't redraft anything. Just b/c helps to piggy back on ELG, has money in budget to come back in April or do conference call.

02:45:03 Sen. Moore thinks we should schedule all day Tuesday with possibility of meeting on Wednesday.

02:45:21 Rep. Hansen asked about option to do conference call.

02:45:29 Rep. McClafferty wants conference call after 3:00.

02:45:45 Rep. Hansen wants to plan for one day in April but put Wednesday as tentative date also so it is publicly noticed. Asked Mr. McCracken and Ms Sankey to provide a recap. Would like dialogue via e-mail. Asked for conference call for an hour at the end of March. She will discuss that with staff and send out e-mail. Members can think about this for the April meeting.

Public Comment

- 02:48:00 Claudette Morton, League of Women Voters, commented on technology. Issue hasn't been addressed. Common Core requires an assessment that is done through computers. Thinks there is concern at local districts whether or not districts have equipment and connection to make this work. Be aware that further information is needed because they may be looking at an appropriation.
- 02:49:28 Rep. Hansen asked Mr. McCracken and he said there will be a presentation at the ELG meeting this afternoon which might address this issue.

Adjourn

- 02:50:00 Rep. Hansen adjourned meeting at 10:50 a.m.

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