

ACTION SHEET
JOINT MEETING
OF THE
HOUSE AND SENATE INTERIM COMMITTEES ON EDUCATION

Monday, August 24, 2015

1:30 P.M.

Centennial Hall, Carl R. Reng Student Union, Arkansas State University (ASU)
101 N. Caraway Road, Jonesboro, Arkansas

Senator Jane English, the Chair of the Senate Interim Committee on Education, called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m.

MEMBERS OF THE SENATE INTERIM COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION IN ATTENDANCE: Senator Jane English, Chair; Senator Blake Johnson; and Senator Eddie Joe Williams.

MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE INTERIM COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION IN ATTENDANCE: Representative Bruce Cozart, Chair; Representative Charles L. Armstrong; Representative Nate Bell; Representative Michael John Gray; Representative Mark Lowery; Representative Mark McElroy; and Representative James Ratliff.

OTHER MEMBERS OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY IN ATTENDANCE: Senator John Cooper; Senator Stephanie Flowers; Representative Mary Broadaway; Representative Stephen Meeks; Representative Sue Scott; Representative Brandt Smith; and Representative Dan Sullivan.

The Honorable Bruce Cozart, State Representative, District 24, and the Chair of the House Interim Committee on Education, was recognized, and requested that the legislators introduce themselves.

Welcome and Overview of the Arkansas State University (ASU) System

Presenter:

Dr. Charles Welch, President, Arkansas State University (ASU) System, was recognized. Dr. Welch welcomed legislators to the ASU-Jonesboro campus. He first presented an overview of the ASU System, and said a concerted effort is made within the ASU System to find ways of sharing information and resources, to eliminate duplication, and to provide consistency throughout its five (5) campuses. He commented on how legal, insurance, and financial management areas are affected. Dr. Welch said higher education is at a critical junction and facing challenges over expenditures, student retention, and graduation rates. He said the ASU System is sensitive to these issues and is focused on solutions. He stated the collective ASU System budget increased 10.26 percent over the last five years, which is two (2) percent annually, and lower than most inflationary rates. He stated the total budget for this year is lower than last year. He discussed meeting challenges on the general revenue side, and on the tuition and fees side, the two sources of funding for ASU. He noted that the vast majority of private giving goes to scholarships or capital improvements. Dr. Welch stated that higher education, just as K-12 education, needs funding to increase at least 2% annually to maintain Adequacy. He discussed the need to find alternative ways to generate additional revenue. He provided charts showing higher education as the single best investment a person can make in lifetime or the state can make in its people.

Handout:

Value of Higher Education Persists/Charts

Update on New York Institute of Technology (NYIT) at ASU Osteopathic Medical School

Presenter:

Dr. Tim Hudson, Chancellor, ASU-Jonesboro, was recognized. Dr. Hudson described the ASU-Jonesboro campus as just the right size. He said it is big enough to have the breadth of leadership and academic opportunities that students seek, but small enough for the faculty get to know students on a personal basis. Next, Dr. Hudson, in a PowerPoint presentation, provided details on topics including: *A Destination Campus, Educational Impact, Economic Impact, Advancing Funded Research, A-State Student Achievement, Online Leader for Arkansas, New York Institute of Technology (NYIT) Partnership, and Private/Public Partnerships.*

Issues Included in the Discussion:

- less expensive ways for remediation,
- average credit hour,
- educating for healthcare fields,
- ACT scores and remediation,
- research programs and royalties,
- agricultural research,
- structuring fees to achieve transparency, and
- providing linkages between secondary schools and institutions of higher education to help engage students, to help them learn about jobs, and to enable them to see career pathways.

Admission, Retention, and Graduation Strategies

Presenter:

Dr. Rick Stripling, Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs, ASU-Jonesboro, was recognized, and continued the PowerPoint presentation. Dr. Stripling covered the topics of: *Enrollment Strategies, Retention, Online, New Freshmen, Central Arkansas Recruiting, Customer Relationship Management, Undergraduate Transfers, Concurrent/High School Enrollment, Degree Centers, International Student Enrollment, Graduate Enrollment, Campus Life, First Time Freshman GPA and ACT, Average Loan Debt, Default Rate, Social Media (Video), and Moving Forward.*

Contributor to the Discussion:

Mr. Shane Broadway, Vice President, Governmental Relations, ASU System, and former member of the Arkansas House of Representatives and the Arkansas Senate

Issues Included in the Discussion:

- pro-active intervention for on-campus bullying,
- student debt rates,
- reasons for a successful financial aid office,
- cost impact of dropout rates at end of freshman year and before sophomore year,
- evaluating the return on investment over the course of five years for graduates and non-graduates who have incurred debt,
- mechanism for tracking students from overseas who drop out, and
- reasons 26% of students do not return for their second year.

Presenter:

Dr. Lynita Cooksey, Provost and Vice Chancellor, ASU-Jonesboro, was recognized. Dr. Cooksey continued the presentation, focusing on the topic of remediation. She noted that A-State has reduced its remediation by 45% since 2010. She continued with a discussion of *Changes in Remediation, Math Remediation, Retention and Progression Initiatives, Other Retention Initiatives, Preparing for the Real World, Concurrent Credit--Fall 2015 Entering Class, Helping Students Prepare for Careers, Working with Community Colleges, and Reporting of State and Federal Data by Colleges and Universities.*

Issues Included in the Discussion:

- midterm intakes, and
- percentage of ASU students who receive scholarships and do not complete four years.

Presenter:

Dr. Sandra Massey, Chancellor, ASU-Newport, was recognized, and concluded the presentation with a discussion of *Seamless Pathways and Collaboration*.

PowerPoint Presentation:

“This is A-State”

Video:

“Welcome to Campus”

Mr. Shane Broadway announced that a tour of the campus would commence, followed by dinner with ASU students in the dining hall.

Next Scheduled Meetings:

Tuesday, August 25, 2015, at 9:00 a.m. in the Larry N. Williams Student/Community Center, Merchants and Planters Bank Community Room, ASU-Newport, 7648 Victory Boulevard, Newport, AR 72112

Tuesday, August 25, 2015, at 1:00 p.m. in the Wal-Mart/Regions Room, First Floor, Student Center, ASU-Beebe, 1000 Iowa Street, Beebe, AR 72012

Adjournment:

The meeting adjourned at 5:00 p.m.

Approved: 09/14/15