

DRAFT MINUTES

LEGISLATIVE TASK FORCE TO STUDY THE REALIGNMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION

Wednesday, February 24, 2016

1:30 p.m.

Room B, MAC

Little Rock, Arkansas

The Legislative Task Force to Study the Realignment of Higher Education met on Wednesday, February 24, 2016, in the Multi-Agency Complex (MAC), Room B, Little Rock, Arkansas.

Members in Attendance: Senator Jane English, Co-Chair; Representative Mark Lowery, Co-Chair; Senator John Cooper; Representatives Bruce Cozart, Mark McElroy, Brent Talley, and Dan Sullivan.

Other Legislators present: Representatives John Baine, Bob Ballinger, Rick Beck, Mary Bentley, Ken Bragg, David Branscum, Jim Dotson, David Fielding, Lanny Fite, Bill Gossage, Michelle Gray, Jack Ladyman, Kelley Linck, James Sorvillo, John Vines, and Richard Womack.

Representative Lowery called the meeting to order.

Consideration to approve Minutes of January 20, 2016 [EXHIBIT B]

Representative Cozart made the motion to approve the minutes. The motion was seconded by Senator Cooper. Without objection, the minutes were approved by the Task Force.

Overview of the University of Arkansas System Presentation [EXHIBIT D]

Dr. Donald Bobbitt, President, University of Arkansas System, was recognized. He presented a PowerPoint titled "Transformation 2025: The UA System Strategic Plan" (see **Exhibit D** for full report). Dr. Bobbitt gave an overview of University of Arkansas' system. He stated that the University currently serves approximately 63,000 students through five universities and five community colleges.

Issues Discussed:

- Current operating budget: \$7.8 million dollars
- Benefits of launching the E-versity
- UA System member opportunities

ASU System Value and Benefits Presentation [EXHIBIT C]

Dr. Charles Welch, President, Arkansas State University System, was recognized. He presented a PowerPoint titled "ASU System Value and Benefits" (see **Exhibit C** for full report).

Issues Discussed:

- ASU System budget is comprised of 64% personnel, 12% scholarships, 3% debt service, and 3% utilities
- An increase in the graduation rate
- ASU System operating costs of adding a campus

Other Business

Representative Lowery asked for a motion to request permission to request an Attorney General Opinion on Amendment 33. The motion was made by Representative Sullivan and seconded by Representative Tally. Without objection, the motion is approved.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 2:55 p.m.