

Senate Committee

COMMITTEE MINUTES for EDUCATION

Date: ***March 22, 2017***

Location: ***RM 22***

Convened: ***2:10 PM***

Adjourned: ***3:00 PM***

Attendance Roll Call:

Present: Senators Sinclair-CH, Edler-VC, Quirmbach-RM, Behn, Bowman, Chelgren, Danielson, Dvorsky, Greene, Hart, Johnson, C., Kraayenbrink, Lofgren, Mathis, Rozenboom

Absent:

Excused:

The meeting came to order at 2:09.

The minutes from the previous meeting were approved.

Senator Sinclair welcomed the State Board of Regents governor appointees, Sherry Bates, Nancy Boettger, and Nancy Dunkel.

Sherry Bates introduced herself, went through some of her background, and her past efforts on the State Board of Regents. She explained her major areas of concern that she would focus on while serving again on the State Board of Regents.

Nancy Dunkel introduced herself, went through some of her career background, and explained how her background would be beneficial as a State Board of Regent member. She went on to explain some of the qualifications that she possessed that would allow her to serve.

Nancy Boettger introduced herself and expressed some of her major passions and concerns in regards to education. She explained some of her background and qualifications for this position. Nancy discussed the mission statements and goals of the State Board of Regents and expressed her belief in them and willingness to further support them.

Senator Sinclair recognized Senator Chelgren for a question.

Senator Chelgren asked Sherry Bates what her solution would be to attempt to keep tuition costs down.

Sherry responded that everyone was in agreement to keep student debt down and she felt the universities were looking into new avenues for keeping costs down.

Nancy Dunkel felt it was important to assist and encourage students to get through college in four years to help keep costs down and avoid incurring additional debt.

Senator Chelgren thanked them for their responses and encouraged them to further explore options related to keeping costs down.

Senator Sinclair recognized Senator Bowman.

Senator Bowman asked Sherry Bates what she has done to advocate for additional resources from the legislature.

Sherry Bates discussed how within the Board they focused on looking into other avenues outside the legislature for more funding and relied on lobbyists to advocate on their behalf with the legislators.

Senator Bowman encouraged Sherry Bates to advocate personally for more funding instead of allowing lobbyists to advocate on her behalf. Senator Bowman also asked if Sherry Bates would be able to take a position on the voter ID bill in regards to ensuring expiration dates were included on student IDs.

Senator Sinclair expanded on Senator Bowman and Senator Chelgren's questions regarding tuition costs and education being done in regards to job salaries.

Nancy Boettger went on to explain how any student who received a federal loan was required to take a class regarding the financial aspects of taking out a loan.

Sherry Bates expressed her agreement that it was important to educate students regarding the return of a degree.

Senator Sinclair recognized Senator Quirmbach.

Senator Quirmbach asked Nancy Boettger about her feelings regarding the school bullying bill that was passed during her time as a senator.

Nancy Boettger expressed that she felt no bullying is acceptable for anyone.

Senator Quirmbach asked if included LGBTQ students and Nancy Boettger confirmed her statement did.

Senator Quirmbach asked Nancy Boettger about a bill regarding civil liberties and discrimination.

Nancy Boettger was unclear of the exact bill being referenced felt it was wrong for anyone to be discriminated against for any reason.

Senator Quirmbach addressed all three appointees regarding the importance of diversity and the eradication of discrimination.

Senator Quirmbach expressed the importance of equal opportunities for employees specifically in regards to two hiring's that occurred at Iowa State and asked the appointees to elaborate on their thoughts regarding the equal opportunity policy.

Sherry Bates went on to explain her beliefs regarding transparency and the process.

Nancy Boettger and Nancy Dunkel both expressed the importance of transparency.

Senator Quirmbach expressed his hope that if they were appointed the policy in question would be reviewed.

Senator Sinclair recognized Senator Dvorsky.

Senator Dvorsky explained his dissatisfaction with the amount of meetings in the past year of the State Board of Regents and the importance of transparency.

Sherry Bates confirmed that in the last State Board of Regents there was discussion regarding the meeting structure and transparency.

Nancy Boettger expressed her belief in transparency and her hopes to work on this issue if appointed to the State Board of Regents.

Senator Sinclair recognized Senator Mathis.

Senator Mathis thanked the appointees for attending and asked what they thought could be done with the mental health concerns and what the legislature can do to help.

Sherry Bates discussed how students had come to them and lobbied in regards to this issue. She expressed how a major concern was the lack of people available to hire in this field and how there needed to be an increase in mental health education.

Nancy Boettger felt it was important to advertise the availability of help in a more widespread manner.

Nancy Dunkel expressed that she was uninformed on the extent of the problem on college campuses and would like more information before looking into solutions.

Senator Sinclair recognized Senator Behn.

Senator Behn asked Nancy Boettger if she had any connections to the regents.

Nancy Boettger clarified her experience and connections to the regents.

Senator Behn asked Sherry Bates about what was being done to lower costs of the regents.

Sherry Bates clarified the process and what each school was doing to look at the possible ways to lower costs without lower the quality of education.

Senator Sinclair recognized Senator Bolkcom.

Senator Bolkcom felt that the State Board of Regents had not done an adequate job of lobbying for further state funding and asked for the appointees to be more active in the process.

Senator Sinclair recognized Senator D. Johnson.

Senator D. Johnson expressed his main concerns regarding the State Board of Regents.

Senator Sinclair thanked the appointees for coming in.

Senator Chelgren moved to arise.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:00 pm

Senator Amy Sinclair

Casey Nickel, Committee Secretary