

Higher Education Advisory Board Meeting

June 15, 2020 | 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

NM Higher Education Department

(Via GoToMeeting Video Conference)

Board Members:

Dr. Dan Arvizu, Chancellor, New Mexico State University

Dr. Ann Filemyr, President, Southwestern College (*In attendance until 11:00 a.m.*)

Dan García, Vice President for Enrollment Management, UNM

Monica Gonzalez, Resource Faculty, Student Success Advocate, Eastern New Mexico University-Ruidoso

Dr. Elmer Guy, President, Navajo Technical University

Dr. Monty Harris, Faculty Chair, New Mexico State University-Carlsbad

Kathy Keith, Executive Director of the LANL Community Programs Office

Victor Leon, Chief Information Officer, Central New Mexico Community College

Dr. Olin Cleve McDaniel, Vice President for Administration and Finance, New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology

Dr. Cindy Rooney, Chancellor, University of New Mexico-Los Alamos

Dr. Becky Rowley, President, Santa Fe Community College

Dr. Joe Shepard, President, Western New Mexico University

Absent:

Lynn Trujillo, Cabinet Secretary, New Mexico Indian Affairs Department

NMHED Staff Members:

Alicia Armijo, Constituent Services Coordinator

Carmen Lopez, Deputy Cabinet Secretary

David Mathews, Staff Attorney

Kathie Winograd, NMHED Advisor

Members of the Public:

Max Baca, NMHU

Martha Becerra, LFC

Barbara Damron, UNM (*In attendance until 11:30 a.m.*)

Mark Valenzuela, LFC

CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order at 10: 01 a.m. by Dr. Becky Rowley.

I. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

- **Member McDaniel moved to adopt the agenda. Member Shepard seconded the motion. Motion carried by unanimous vote.**

II. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

- **Member Shepard moved to approve the March 11, 2020 Minutes. Member Keith seconded the motion. Motion carried by unanimous vote**

III. HED UPDATES ---- Kathie Winograd, NMHED Advisor

- Dr. Winograd expressed her gratitude in being a part of the HED community during this challenging Covid-19 time. She complimented the higher ed institutions for their amazing work in handling the closures, for continuing to serve students and for their re-opening plan preparations.
- **Budget Submission Process – Carmen Lopez**
 - After the Legislative Special Session wraps, higher ed institutions will need to readjust their budgets, obtain board approval, and then submit a BAR by September 30.

- The other option would have been for everyone to start the budgeting process over. However, DFA and the institutional Finance Director's strong preference is that a BAR be submitted in order for them to see where changes were made.
- **CARES Act Funding – Carmen Lopez**
 - The Governor's discretionary education spending included up to \$4M in funding for higher ed to provide support for moving to online platforms, more online curriculum, professional development, purchase software/licensing, student support, and other stakeholder groups that higher ed serves (early childhood, K-12, etc.).
 - Waiting on more information in order to begin this process. The U.S. Department of Education approved the application and DFA awaits funding. DFA will then provide template sub-grant agreements that HED will use in granting out the funds.
 - The application-submission process will vet applications in a manner that includes all institutions. It will not be a typical straight-grant competition process because they have an interest in encompassing geographic diversity and serving as many institutions as possible.
 - Two Funding Disbursements: One in July (to accommodate current emergency needs) and one in the fall (to accommodate later needs). Planning and purchasing collaboration efforts are encouraged amongst institutions in order to reap the benefits of cost-effective funding.
 - Special Session Thumbnail Info:
 - LFC possibly looking at a 4% budget cut across the board.
 - Eliminating the \$5M in teacher prep funding and the \$5M Opportunity Scholarship funding to HED; disagreement about the \$12M for Opportunity Scholarship; Compensation between 0-2% being discussed; and 6% reduction in RPSPs.
 - Carmen will send out her LFC Hearing notes to everyone.
 - CARES Federal Funding Swap: The CARES federal funds were designed as a one-time funding. There are concerns that it would be unfair and not a good benchmark for this year being that there will be anticipated cuts in future years. It is concerning when federal funding is used to supplant rather than supplement. There are also concerns about how that funding could affect the budgeting for the session.
- **COVID Response, Safety Matters – Kathie Winograd**
 - It is interesting to watch leaders in a crisis and this is a big crisis. She is truly in awe of all the discussions that have taken place with the institutions as they closed down, took care of the students, completed hands-on one-on-one instructions, and transitioned to online. They have done a yeoman's job with great success. New Mexico has been a great example for all of higher ed.
 - IT people have done incredible work that has allowed the business of running higher ed to continue.
 - It is important to recognize that everyone's focus is on the safe return of students and that higher ed re-opens. Higher ed is the economic engine for our state that prepares people for the workforce.
 - The draft Re-Opening Plans give lots of control to the institutions to work with their boards.
 - Institutions are moving forward with plans for the fall and are getting students finished with online instructions this summer.
 - Our Covid-19 planning is going very well, however, we still don't have all the answers. Paying attention to requests for testing. CDC recommendations change very often.
 - Contact Tracing: Higher ed will be counting on the Public Health Dept. to contact trace. Higher ed is a priority as the plans are developed for the entire state.
 - The Re-Opening Plans address different activities and phases but will not address areas such as Continuing Ed. Institutions will create these specific plans with their boards as they see fit.
 - Member Arvizu noted that Dr. Winograd has offered a great service to higher ed and has done an incredible job. He thanked her for all of her efforts during this uncertain time, she has done yeoman's work to get us to this point.
 - Chair Rowley thanked Kathie for leading us through this unprecedented time. Her experience has been invaluable with her ability to scan the horizon and keep us informed as to what other states are doing as we struggle to keep different departments going at various levels.
 - Dr. Winograd stated that it has been an honor to serve and she is looking forward to retirement.
- **Future Funding (Formula) – Kathie Winograd**
 - Chair Rowley asked Dr. Winograd to talk about the funding formula and the challenges we are likely to face if we roll things out as we typically would.
 - Dr. Winograd spoke not on behalf of HED, but as someone who actually put together the last three funding formulas in NM and has worked on funding formulas her entire career.

- Funding formulas for higher ed are appropriate for 5-6 years because the landscape and the Governor's priorities change significantly.
- This current funding formula was developed under the last regime and will need to be updated and adjusted.
- The truth is that people come to higher ed to improve their lives by graduating and this formula has helped us focus in that direction.
- Higher ed is facing a financial crisis that will make us closely examine how we go into the funding formula. It will also make us re-think how we re-do our FY22 budgets (with a bigger budget cut). In preparation for this, the following should be considered:
 - Think about what is important for higher ed in the future.
 - What do we want the funding formula to focus on?
 - How do we get everyone together to think about what a funding formula would do to help support our education in the future and also help create incentives that will move us forward.
 - How do we create partnerships that support higher ed and also reduce resource needs on campuses?
 - What are the best ways to meet the higher ed needs of our state?
 - Do we create incentives for workforce development issues?
 - Do we create incentives that focus on the research capabilities of research institutions?
 - How do we make sure that our institutions are meeting the needs of their communities?
- The funding formula is important, it not only sets the standard for how institutions are funding, it also helps us point institutions towards the priorities of our state.
- This is the best time to rethink the funding formula because the current funding formula probably will not work going into another cut. It gives us 1 ½ years to rethink and create a funding formula that could fund FY23.
- The current funding formula does not treat small and large institutions the same way. We can construct a funding model that allows us to compete against ourselves and not each other.
- Member Keith offered to work on an industry-based advisory group to converse with employers in the state who are engaged with higher ed. With some of their higher ed institution partnerships around the state, it has been frustrating to work through pathway collaborations for their employees. There are issues when a 2-year institution wants to transfer students to a 4-year institution (with a Master's Degree program). Schools have stated that they are at a disadvantage in terms of the funding formula for them to enter into those kinds of relationships. Other employers probably have this issue as well and a change in the funding formula can help us with this issue. Chair Rowley and Dr. Winograd approved of Member Keith's formation of an advisory group.
- This is a marvelous opportunity to look at the funding formula and the strategic priorities that we want from HED. This will provide opportunities to collaborate and strengthen relations with the private sector.
- Chair Rowley inquired about the CHECS group's work regarding the use of the proposed \$4M. NMICC has been discussing ways for institutions to collaborate (including tribal schools) and submit a common application to use funds in a manner that benefits everyone in a statewide approach.
 - Member Leon reported that the group has tried to have a short-term and long-term approach on how to allocate the funds. There are many different needs based on 2-year, 3-year, geographical locations, etc. They honed in on the following priority items: 1) Laptops and hardware for students and faculty; 2) Hotspots for urban areas (internet access and broadband initiatives); and 3) Licensing and training to be an effective learner and teacher in this new online environment. Discussed augmentation for technical support to help faculty as they teach these new hybrid and blended courses. CHECS is formulating these packages and will release a list of all of the prioritizations.
 - A conversation was had with the Rio Rancho CIO to possibly partner with K-12 schools.
 - All proposals would be consolidated into 2 or 3 proposals with implementation timelines so we are prepared to submit them through the RFP process.
 - The funding formula created by NMICC last year related to the shared services ERP is being used as a way to allocate funding across the member schools.
 - Faculty know that they need more training and are signing up for quality matter pipelines. We need to collaborate our trainings through shared services to get people trained more quickly and effectively.
 - There needs to be a truly collaborative hub concept so that everyone can fully leverage the different resources. Create a good inventory of the particular skillsets of different instructional technologists.

IV. DISCUSSION OF FUTURE TOPICS

- Chair Rowley opened up the meeting for **Questions and Concerns**:
- At the last meeting Covid-19 had just hit NM and was not that real yet; we have now lived with it for 3 months.

- **Enrollment:** The current reasons for decline in enrollment are very different now and may show declines between 5-50% across the state. It is difficult to know where to go from here.
- **LANL's Operating Plans:**
 - Short-term: LANL is open and operating. Over 10,000 employees are currently tele-working. Managers are encouraged to keep tele-working to the maximum extent possible and evaluate employee's needs to come into the office on a one-on-one basis
 - Long-term: The Director stated that they will continue the tele-working practice until there is a vaccine (projected at 1 year to 18 months away).
- **Workforce Development:** Member Leon reported that CNM ingenuity has been doing a lot of work around workforce development. The Learning Credential Network aims to create the digital wallet to connect credit and non-credit students with employers. Very interested in how that lines up with the work LANL is doing. As they move forward, he will reach out to Member Keith so she can learn more about what they are doing and to ensure that their ingenuity meshes with LANL. Also working with a firm called Unmuddle that provides online training content to students in need.
- **Dual Credit Opportunity.** A committee is working on re-opening plans but we don't have any details. Dual credit is on the agenda but not a top priority. We need to continue to think about how to move it forward. Santa Fe is looking at offering more substantial and well-constructed online dual credit opportunities, instead of relying on more face-to-face classes during this time.
- **Future Expenses:** Discuss what our actual expenses ended up being, compared to the initial anticipated expenses. Including loss of revenues for lost occupancy in dorms and dining halls, as well as other lost revenues and those that compound the budget deficit. Discuss what the new additional expenses are in addition to how much lower the operating budgets are.
- **Next Meeting:** Will be scheduled in the fall (possibly in September).
- Chair Rowley appreciated everyone attending today, especially with the new video conferencing format. We will continue to discuss the funding formula, enrollment tracking, oil crisis, how things are affected by the Coronavirus, and how this all works in shaping our budgets.

V. **SESSION WRAP UP:** *None Presented.*

VI. **PUBLIC COMMENT:** *None Presented.*

VII. **EXECUTIVE SESSION:** *None Requested.*

VIII. **ADJOURNMENT**

Member Arvizu motioned to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Member Keith. Motion carried by unanimous vote. The meeting adjourned at 11:17 a.m.

Victor Leon 9/22/2020

Victor Leon, Board Secretary