

ARIZONA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Fiftieth Legislature – Second Regular Session

**COMMITTEE ON HIGHER EDUCATION,
INNOVATION AND REFORM**

Minutes of Meeting
Wednesday, January 25, 2012
House Hearing Room 1 -- 9:00 a.m.

Chairman Forese called the meeting to order at 9:04 a.m. and attendance was noted by the secretary.

Members Present

Mr. Arredondo
Mr. Chabin
Mrs. Goodale

Miss Reeve
Mr. Saldate
Mr. Vogt

Mrs. Barton, Vice-Chairman
Mr. Forese, Chairman

Members Absent

Mr. Montenegro (excused)

Committee Action

HB2349 – HELD
HB2383 – DP (6-2-0-1)

HB2388 – DP (8-0-0-1)
HB2397 – DP (8-0-0-1)

PRESENTATIONS

Leah Bornstein, President, Coconino Community College (CCC), discussed CCC's sustainable financial plan (Attachment 1), which is a three-tier plan, organized by urgency:

1. deficiencies – This tier focuses on cutting expenses in the business end that have very little student impact. An example of this was a \$5,000 annual savings on paper towels.
2. critical – This tier focuses on faculty and staff cuts (as many as 25 positions) and course and program cuts (as many as 120), totaling \$3 million at this point.
3. crisis – This tier involves changing the mission of CCC, moving to four-day weeks, closing in the summer months, and/or closing some campuses.

Dr. Bornstein did describe a positive outcome, in that the plan has received national recognition and is being copied at community colleges across the country. She stressed that the cost per full-time student equivalent has been reduced dramatically in the last few years and that CCC has been cut below the viability point and needs \$1 million put back into the budget in order to be sustainable long-term.

She discussed the very important relationship with the community and the CCC-Northern Arizona University (NAU) collaboration allowing easy transfer of students' CCC credits to NAU.

Chairman Forese explained that he has been touring universities, colleges, and private schools to see what is working and what is not. He stated that he was particularly impressed with the innovation he saw at CCC. He stressed the importance of increasing proper tax revenue and asked what can be done to maintain a culture of innovation. Dr. Bornstein replied that she is a "planner" and that is the key: long-term planning with flexibility.

Dr. Bornstein addressed Members' questions:

- the cost for 30 credits (two semesters) at CCC is \$2,600, which is the highest in Arizona but is on par nationally
- cuts were made at all levels, administrative and academic, to spread the pain
- legislation which would assist CCC would allow it to go back to the voters to ask for more money, and perhaps to raise the property tax
- presidents meet monthly to share ideas about the budgets and the rising cost of tuition

Mark Bryce, President, Eastern Arizona College (EAC), explained to the Members that EAC was established before Arizona statehood 125 years ago. He stated that he has been president for ten years and has seen substantial changes and recognizes the importance of innovation. He said that eighth grade used to be a benchmark, but a baccalaureate degree is the standard now; retention of students is a critical issue in higher education. He spoke of the importance of remediation in the first two years of high school, followed by dual enrollment in the last two years of high school in a community college, and finally accomplishing a bachelor's degree in two years.

Dr. Bryce described the recent partnership with Arizona State University (ASU) to allow onsite delivery of programs. In response to questions he explained that the six ASU programs at EAC will carry full ASU accreditation and ASU diplomas.

Eugene Giovannini, President, Gateway Community College (GCC), explained that Gateway began as a charter high school in 1997/1998 (Attachments 2 and 3). In 2004 GCC became an early college high school, sometimes called a "middle college", where students would receive a high school diploma and college associate degree in five years at no cost. GCC is part of the Maricopa Community College system and its mission includes preparing an occupational workforce in technical services with a focus on allied health support personnel. He described the ten percent partnership GCC has with the Arizona Builders' Association to train over 250 apprentices each year; he stressed that there are jobs available that need trained people to fill them. GCC also partners with the automotive industry, which has donated tools and automobiles for student courses; students gain experience doing prototype work for local industries.

Dr. Giovannini addressed Mr. Saldate's question, explaining that GCC addresses substance abuse as it is addressed in the general society, but also because in the industries there are drug testing requirements; he stressed that the faculty and staff are trained to address those requirements.

Chairman Forese thanked all the presenters, adding that Arizona has a problem with education and it is not a money problem, although money is a part of it. The problem is with vision and direction and getting on the same page in expectations. He stated that if the three schools that presented today were combined to create a *superschool*, you would have frugality and caution with taxpayer money and a focus on student achievement that starts in high school to solve the issue of remediation and ends with employment. He stressed that this should be the focus for Arizona. He congratulated these three schools for what they have accomplished in a very difficult market; he stated that policy and appropriation should be based on rewarding these efforts.

CONSIDERATION OF BILLS

HB2349 - medical marijuana; cardholder; campuses; prohibition – HELD

Chairman Forese announced that HB2349 will be held.

HB2383 - university enrollment requirements; immunizations – DO PASS (CONTINUED BELOW)

Vice-Chairman Barton moved that HB2383 do pass.

Brooke White, House Majority Research Analyst, explained that HB2383 prohibits the Arizona Board of Regents (ABOR) and community college districts from requiring students to be immunized as a condition of university or community college admission or enrollment (Attachment 4).

Without objection, Vice-Chairman Barton withdrew her motion that HB2383 do pass.

HB2397 - ABOR; continuation – DO PASS

Vice-Chairman Barton moved that HB2397 do pass.

Virginia Carico, House Majority Intern, explained that HB2397 continues the Arizona Board of Regents (ABOR) for ten years (Attachment 5).

Vice-Chairman Barton announced the names of those who signed up in support of HB2397 but did not speak:

Heather Bernacki, East Valley Chambers of Commerce Alliance

Jaime Molera, Arizona Board of Regents

Michelle Bolton, Greater Phoenix Chamber of Commerce

Christine Thompson, Arizona Board of Regents

Christy Farley, Northern Arizona University

Brian Tassinari, Arizona State University

Steve Miller, Deputy, Arizona State University

Mary Ann Miller, Tempe Chamber of Commerce

David Maurer, Prescott Chamber of Commerce

Lisa A. Atkins, Greater Phoenix Leadership
Alisa Lyons, Arizona Community College Presidents' Council
Marcus Osborn, Arizona Manufacturers Council
Katie Whitchurch, Arizona Chamber of Commerce and Industry
Patricia Hill, Maricopa Community Colleges
Timothy Bee, University of Arizona
Robyn Nebrich, Arizona Students' Association
Brianna Pantilione, Arizona Students' Association
Samantha Kerley, Arizona Students' Association
Rhian Stotts, representing self
Michael Haener, Arizona State University

Question was called on the motion that HB2397 do pass. The motion carried by a roll call vote of 8-0-0-1 (Attachment 6).

HB2383 - university enrollment requirements; immunizations – DO PASS (CONTINUED)

Vice-Chairman Barton moved that HB2383 do pass.

Brooke White, House Majority Research Analyst, explained that HB2383 prohibits the Arizona Board of Regents (ABOR) and community college districts from requiring students to be immunized as a condition of university or community college admission or enrollment (Attachment 4).

Representative Eddie Farnsworth, sponsor, explained that a lack of immunization should not prevent someone from enrolling in college, that there should be consistency in opportunity for all Arizonans. He stressed that the colleges can collect the information but cannot deny enrollment because of immunization status.

In response to Mr. Arredondo's question, Representative Farnsworth stated that HB2383 does not address K-12 education, although K-12 has an opt-out provision for those students who are not immunized.

Alisa Lyons, Arizona Community College Presidents' Council, stated her opposition to HB2383, explaining that the vast majority of students do not have to show proof of immunization, but students in the health care field who come in contact with vulnerable populations must be immunized. She added that if that specific segment of students could be identified in an amendment, the Council would be neutral on the bill. Representative Farnsworth stated that he is willing to discuss this with the universities.

Mr. Chabin stated concerns that HB2383 could prevent the adherence to a public health advisory.

Don Sailer, representing self, stated his support for the legislation and described a situation when he was denied enrollment in Mesa Community College because, for personal reasons, he would not be immunized. Representative Farnsworth stated that there is no clear standard across the state for immunization.

John Po, MD, representing self, appeared in opposition to HB2383. He identified himself as an infectious disease physician and stressed the importance of crafting legislation that allows an opt-out provision for prospective students such as Mr. Sailer. He stated that it is not wise to prohibit immunization policies which are for the protection and health of the student population. He explained that it is important that a minimum of 75 to 80 percent of a population be immunized.

In response to Members' questions, Dr. Po explained that he is affiliated with the Arizona Infectious Disease Society and that many infectious diseases can be easily spread by sneezing or sharing a beverage cup.

Vice-Chairman Barton announced the names of those who signed up in opposition to HB2383 but did not speak:

Jennifer Bonnett, Arizona Public Health Association
Norman Moore, Pfizer
Don Isaacson, Pfizer
David Landrith, Arizona Medical Association
Rory Hays, Arizona Nurses Association
Debbie Rich, representing self
Susan Cannata, Arizona Academy of Family Physicians
Mary Rimsza, American Academy of Pediatrics

Vice-Chairman Barton announced the names of those who signed up as neutral on HB2383 but did not speak:

Seth Apfel, representing self
Christine Thompson, Arizona Board of Regents

Question was called on the motion that HB2383 do pass. The motion carried by a roll call vote of 6-2-0-1 (Attachment 7).

HB2388 - college savings plans; tax subtraction – DO PASS

Vice-Chairman Barton moved that HB2388 do pass.

Stephanie Jaffa, House Majority Assistant Research Analyst, explained that HB2388 extends the Arizona tax benefits for a college savings plan for five years (Attachment 8).

Representative Frank Pratt, sponsor, explained that HB2388 extends college savings plan for parents.

Don Isaacson, University of Phoenix, stated his support for HB2388, which hands to the middle class and the wage earner an option to save, whether for the public or the private education system. He added that this legislation renews legislation passed five years ago; he stressed his support to ultimately lift the five-year cap.

Representative Pratt indicated that he would consider lifting the five-year cap.

Vice-Chairman Barton announced the names of those who signed up in support of HB2388 but did not speak:

Gregory Harris, representing self

Norman Moore, Independent Colleges & Universities of Arizona, University of Phoenix

Timothy Bee, University of Arizona

April Osborn, representing self

Question was called on the motion that HB2388 do pass. The motion carried by a roll call vote of 8-0-0-1 (Attachment 9).

Without objection, the meeting adjourned at 11:08 a.m.

Jane Dooley, Committee Secretary

February 2, 2012

(Original minutes, attachments and audio on file in the Office of the Chief Clerk; video archives available at <http://www.azleg.gov>)