STATE OF ARIZONA

Joint Legislative Budget Committee

1716 WEST ADAMS
PHOENIX, ARIZONA 85007

RUTH SOLOMON
CHAIRMAN 2002
MARSHA ARZBERGER
TIMOTHY S. BEE
KEN BENNETT
JACK A. BROWN
SCOTT BUNDGAARD
EDWARD J. CIRILLO
PETE RIOS

LAURA KNAPEREK
CHAIRMAN 2001
CAROLYN S. ALLEN
MEG BURTON CAHILL
LINDA GRAY
STEVE MAY
RUSSELL K. PEARCE
MARION L. PICKENS
CHRISTINE WEASON

MEETING NOTICE

DATE: Thursday, October 25, 2001
TIME: 1:30 p.m.
PLACE: HOUSE HEARING ROOM 4

AGENDA

- Call to Order


- EXECUTIVE SESSION - Arizona Department of Administration, Risk management Services - Consideration of Proposed Settlements under Rule 14.

- DIRECTOR'S REPORT (if necessary).


2. ARIZONA BOARD OF REGENTS - Follow-up Report on Technology and Research Initiative Fund Award Program (Proposition 301).

3. REPORT ON RECENT AGENCY SUBMISSIONS
   A. Attorney General - Report on Model Court.
   D. Department of Emergency and Military Affairs - Report on Declared Emergencies.
   F. Arizona Game and Fish Department - Quarterly Report on the Game and Fish Publications Revolving Fund.

The Chairman reserves the right to set the order of the agenda.
10/18/01

People with disabilities may request accommodations such as interpreters, alternative formats, or assistance with physical accessibility. Requests for accommodations must be made with 72 hours prior notice. If you require accommodations, please contact the JLBC Office at (602) 542-5491.
The Chairman called the meeting to order at 1:40 p.m., Thursday, October 4, 2001, in House Hearing Room 4. The following were present:

Members: Senator Solomon, Vice-Chairman Representative Knaperek, Chairman
Senator Bee Representative Gray
Senator Bennett Representative May
Senator Brown Representative Pearce
Senator Cirillo Representative Pickens
Senator Rios Representative Weason

Absent: Senator Arzberger Representative Allen
Senator Bundgaard Representative Burton Cahill

Staff: Richard Stavneak, Director Cheryl Kestner, Secretary
Gretchen Logan Lorenzo Martinez
Kim Hohman Jill Young

Others: Debbie Spinner Outside Counsel for the Attorney General
Kathy Wieneke Office of the Attorney General
Branch McNeal AHCCCS
Matt Ortega Board of Regents
Mr. Lonnie Hendrix State Maintenance Engineer, ADOT

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Senator Solomon moved that the minutes of August 30, 2001 be approved. The motion carried.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Senator Solomon moved that the Committee go into Executive Session. The motion carried.

At 1:41 p.m. the Joint Legislative Budget Committee went into Executive Session.

Senator Solomon moved that the Committee reconvene into open session. The motion carried.

At 2:00 p.m. the Committee reconvened into open session.

Senator Solomon moved that the Committee approve the recommended settlement proposal by the Attorney General’s Office in the case of Saar v. State of Arizona and Sechrist v. State of Arizona. The motion carried.
DIRECTOR’S REPORT

Mr. Richard Stavneak, JLBC Staff, stated that a copy of the JLBC Statutory Responsibilities was provided to the Committee. This report is done once a year, and lists what is required of the Committee and JLBC Staff. The Committee has 131 different statutory responsibilities, up from 123 last year, and the JLBC Staff has 68, up from 59 last year. In addition, the JLBC Staff keeps track of reports that are required under statute. Mr. Stavneak noted that the list is posted on the JLBC Web site so that an agency is able to check to see whether they have met their statutory requirements.

ARIZONA HEALTH CARE COST CONTAINMENT SYSTEM (AHCCCS)

A. Review of Capitation and Fee-for-Service Rates.

Ms. Gretchen Logan, JLBC Staff, said that the adopted budget contained approximately $32.5 million for inflation. However, the incorporation of the rate changes proposed by AHCCCS increases the amount needed for inflation to approximately $35.7 million. This is $3.2 million above the budgeted amount. The JLBC Staff deferred a recommendation on this item because they view the decision to increase the agency budget as a policy decision. Furthermore, the increases proposed by AHCCCS are based on actuarial analysis, and as with any projections, include some range of outcome.

Representative Knaperek asked Ms. Logan to expand on range of outcomes. Ms. Logan stated that in all projections there is a range because it is based on a set of estimates. For specifics she said she would have to defer to the agency representative.

Mr. Branch McNeal, Deputy Director, AHCCCS, said that he was not sure what Ms. Logan meant by that since it was not a statement made by the agency. He explained that in working with actuaries, AHCCCS supplies them with all the data. They come back with an adjusted rate that AHCCCS incorporates and then sends it to the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS). Under the agreement with AHCCCS and CMS, AHCCCS has a requirement that actuaries set the capitation rates paid to their contractors.

In response to Representative Knaperek, Mr. McNeal said that during a rate renewal year the actuary does not come back with a range of rates. During a bid year, however, AHCCCS sets a rate range and asks for competitive bids that stay within that rate range. If someone comes in with a bid that is higher than the high range, AHCCCS will not accept it but will offer them a rate within the range.

Representative Knaperek asked if you have a different actuary could you have a different rate. Mr. McNeal said that 2 different professionals could come up with 2 different recommendations.

Mr. McNeal discussed his handout which was a packet of recent articles from national and local publications that speak to the rate increases that are occurring in health care. (Attachment 1)

Representative Knaperek noted that the rates for Long-Term Care came in lower than what was proposed. Mr. McNeal said they had a competitive process for Long-Term Care contracts this year for all the counties in the state except for Maricopa County. The combination of that competitive process, along with the beneficial shift of members from institutional settings to alternative residential settings, which are just under 1/3 of the cost, allowed them to keep the capitation rate increase for the Long-Term Care program lower than expected. Without that shift the increase in the ALTCS rates may have been somewhere between 7% and 8%. Because they have more people who come in and have the ability to have services in their own home, such as an adult foster care setting, it is a much less costly setting. Mr. McNeal noted that they also have Kids Care which did not have a capitation rate increase.

In response to Senator Cirillo’s questions on a reduced rate and the number of capitation rates, Mr. McNeal said they would reduce the rate if the actuaries said the rate needed to be reduced. He further stated that they have looked at all of the 16 capitation rates and the net affect is a 7.2% increase.

Senator Solomon asked Ms. Logan if she would expand on what she meant by range in rates. Ms. Logan said that she was pointing out that whenever you have a projection, as with revenue forecasting, there is always some uncertainty or a range of low to high.

Representative Knaperek said that AHCCCS is required to be actuarially sound. This puts them $3,200,000 higher than the budget which means they will likely come back for a supplemental. The Committee does not have to approve a
supplemental. She asked if Mr. McNeal had any insight into whether the agency would be asking for a supplemental or how they would be handling the shortfall.

Mr. McNeal said clearly they would have to request a supplemental in order to have funds available.

Senator Solomon asked if AHCCCS had a Medical Stabilization Account with funds set aside for such expenses as indicated by increased caseload. Mr. McNeal responded that they did.

Mr. Stavneak said that to use the Medical Stabilization Account for a supplemental the agency would have to come before the Committee prior to expenditure of that money. He also noted that it might be useful in the future if AHCCCS asked the actuaries to present them with a range of potential rates so the Committee can get a possible range of outcomes.

\textbf{Senator Solomon moved that the Committee give a favorable review to the AHCCCS capitation and fee-for-service rates increase.} The motion carried.

\section{B. Report on Provider Rate Adjustment Implementation Plan.}

Ms. Logan reported that this item was for information only and no Committee action was required. This plan is in accordance with the intent of the provider rate increase, as outlined by the General Appropriation Act, and falls within the amounts budgeted for the increase.

Senator Cirillo commented that if this were an item that the Committee would be looking at in the budget review, it should not be passed over now.

Representative Knaperek said that the Committee cannot take action on this but could certainly express comments. She suggested that AHCCCS delay this until the budget is discussed.

Mr. McNeal said those provider rate increases are already being dealt with. They are built into the capitation rates that are effective this month.

\section*{ARIZONA BOARD OF REGENTS - Report on Technology and Research Initiative Fund Award Program (Proposition 301).}

Ms. Jill Young, JLBC Staff, said that this item was for information only and that the Chairman of the Committee had requested that it be on the agenda. The report is required by statute to be submitted by September 1 of each year. The Technology and Research Initiative (TRI) Fund was established to fund new economy technology and research initiatives by Education 2000 (Proposition 301). Proposition 301 increased the state sales tax from 5\% to 5.6\% and the universities receive a portion of these revenues. The Board of Regents receives funding requests and issues awards based on the criterion established. Ms. Young referred to the table in the JLBC Staff memo for the distribution of TRI Fund revenues. The low and high estimates are based on revenue forecasts from this spring.

Representative Knaperek asked Ms. Young to give the actual percentage between the low and the high. Ms. Young replied that based on information from the Board of Regents, they have received the actuals from June and July. Because of a lag in receiving information, they receive that information in August and September. In June they received approximately $2.9 million and in July approximately $3.5 million, which totals $6.4 million. At this point, not having a full year, they are 2.6\% lower averaged over the 12-month period. Ms. Young said there is a 20\% difference between the high and the low estimate.

Senator Cirillo suggested that the Board of Regents be looking at their projects and prioritize them because if sales tax revenues fall short they should not be taken by surprise in the middle of a project.

Ms. Young said that the university system does plan to go before the Board in January 2002 to reevaluate their projects.

Senator Solomon asked about the “Regents Innovation Fund.” It appears that there is no low and high estimate and that it is allotted $1 million for each year.

\textbf{Mr. Matt Ortega, Board of Regents,} responded that the Regents Innovation Fund is a 5-year forecast low. That is, it is designed for specific programs.
The Arizona Regents University is a coalition effort between the Board and the 3 public universities to provide place-bound and time-bound students with access to all 3 public universities. Students could select a home university but take classes online, or otherwise, from all 3 state universities.

Senator Solomon asked if distance learning was not already available. Mr. Ortega responded that each university has their own version of distance learning, but currently a student is not able to access all 3 universities in completing their degree. The concept for being enrolled at 1 university would be for a student living in rural Arizona to select a home university, even though they do not live in Flagstaff, Maricopa County or Tucson, but would have the benefit of having access to all the courses at the 3 universities. A student services system through Arizona Regents University would provide services for them so they could get their degree in a reasonable amount of time. Mr. Ortega said their purpose was to solely help those students that were place-bound or time-bound to have access to urban campuses. It is not a virtual university.

Senator Solomon said that she felt the timing was not good for implementing the Arizona Regents University at this time.

Representative Gray asked if a feasibility study had been done on this. Mr. Ortega said that studies had been done on programs like this but not on their particular program.

Representative Knaperek asked for more information on the Arizona Regents University and Regents Innovation Fund.

Representative Pickens said that Proposition 301 monies cannot be swept into the General Fund, these monies cannot be diverted for other uses.

Senator Solomon said that the universities will have to make a decision on how they want to come up with budget relief.

Mr. Ortega stated that it is his intent to make sure the Committee is comfortable with whatever public accountability or performance measures they feel is necessary.

Senator Bennett said that Mr. Ortega described the Regents University as something that is not up and running yet but are budgeting $2 million in FY 2002. Mr. Ortega responded that it is something that they are planning to do over time.

REPORT ON RECENT AGENCY SUBMISSIONS

Mr. Stavneak said that these are the recent reports received in the last month and no Committee action was required. He noted that the Governor has declared an emergency in light of the September 11 event and released $40,000 to the Department of Emergency Services.

C. Department of Corrections - Report on Inmate Utility Fees.
D. Dental Board - Report on Unprofessional Conduct Definitions.
E. Arizona Department of Transportation - Report on Highway Maintenance Levels of Service.
F. Arizona Department of Transportation - Report on Ports of Entry.
G. Department of Emergency and Military Affairs - Report on Declared Emergencies.
H. Department of Health Services - Report on SMI Services Distribution Plan.

Representative Weason commented on the need and expense for ADOT to have hired a consultant to assess public perception of Arizona’s Highway Maintenance program and to have repeated a survey initially conducted in July 1998.

Mr. Lonnie Hendrix, Assistant State Maintenance Engineer, ADOT, responded that ADOT has already begun the 3rd consultant contract, which is designed to help ADOT be more accurate with the data collection. The 2nd consultant survey to assess public perception of highway maintenance was a follow-up to an initial survey originally done in July 1998.
Without objection, the meeting adjourned at 2:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

______________________________________________________
Cheryl Kestner, Secretary

______________________________________________________
Richard Stavneak, Director

______________________________________________________
Representative Laura Knaperek, Chairman

NOTE: A full tape recording of this meeting is available at the JLBC Staff Office, 1716 West Adams.
DATE: October 16, 2001

TO: Representative Laura Knaperek, Chairman
Members, Joint Legislative Budget Committee

THRU: Richard Stavneak, Director

FROM: Beth Kohler, Fiscal Analyst

SUBJECT: ARIZONA COMMISSION FOR THE DEAF AND THE HARD OF HEARING
– REVIEW OF TELECOMMUNICATION RELAY SERVICES CONTRACT

Request

Pursuant to a footnote in the General Appropriation Act, the Arizona Commission for the Deaf and the Hard of Hearing is required to present any proposed contract for telecommunication relay services (TRS) to the Committee for review. The Commission requests review of the contract recently awarded, contingent upon Committee review, to MCI WORLDCOM Global Relay.

Recommendation

The JLBC Staff recommends that the Committee give a favorable review to the proposed contract. The contract includes a per minute price of $1.24 beginning January 1, 2002, which is lower than the budgeted per minute price of $1.37. The JLBC Staff estimates this may result in savings of $221,000 in FY 2002 and $457,000 in FY 2003 from the budgeted amounts for the Telecommunication Fund for the Deaf.

Analysis

A footnote in the General Appropriation Act stipulates that “before the execution of any contract for telecommunication relay services, the Commission for the Deaf and the Hard of Hearing shall present the proposed contract to the Joint Legislative Budget Committee for review.” The Commission reports that the State Procurement Office has awarded the contract to MCI WORLDCOM Global Relay, contingent upon Committee review.
The Commission administers the statewide TRS program, which provides telephone access for
the deaf and the hard of hearing. The program is funded from the Telecommunication Fund for
the Deaf, which receives monies from a 1.1% tax on local phone bills. The budget for the
program is $4.7 million in FY 2002 and $4.8 million in FY 2003 and was based upon an
anticipated cost of $1.37 per minute. This figure assumed increased costs in FY 2002 and FY
2003 associated with a new Federal Communications Commission (FCC) mandate that requires
increased operating typing speed and faster answering services and establishes a minimum
period of time an operator must remain on a call. These costs had been incorporated into the
$1.37 per minute rate charged by the previous TRS provider, Sprint.

The State Procurement Office (SPO) issued a Request for Proposal for the TRS contract on
June 4, 2001 and received proposals from 3 vendors. SPO rated the proposals on their terms and
conditions, cost, method of service delivery, and firm qualifications and recommended that the
contract be awarded to MCI. Although another vendor offered a lower price per minute, SPO
determined that they would not fully comply with the FCC mandate mentioned above. The
contract was awarded to MCI on October 11 but is contingent upon Committee review.

The JLBC Staff recommends a favorable review of the contract. The contract includes a price
per minute of $1.24, which is a decrease of 9.5% from the current rate. The JLBC Staff
estimates that, based on the call volume projections that were used to develop the FY 2002 and
FY 2003 budgets, this price decrease may result in savings of $221,000 in FY 2002 and
$457,000 in FY 2003 from the program’s budget.

RS/BK:ck
October 15, 2001

Representative Laura Knaperek
House of Representative
Room 114

Dear Honorable Representative Knaperek:

The Arizona Commission for the Deaf and the Hard of Hearing (ACDHH) recently issued a solicitation for the Arizona Telecommunication Relay Service (AD010240). The State Procurement Office awarded the contract to MCI WORLDCOM Global Relay. Before we can proceed with the official award the Joint Legislative Budget Committee is required, under the General Appropriations Act, “before the execution of any contract for telecommunication relay services, the Commission for the Deaf and the Hard of Hearing shall present the proposed contract to the Joint Legislative Budget Committee for review”. I am requesting to put this issue on the agenda for the October 25, 2001 meeting. The new contract is to be effective on January 1, 2002.

Currently Sprint is our telecommunication relay service provider. Sprint did submit a proposal and they were the lowest bidder. I have heard that Sprint may protest the award of the contract to MCI. Attached is a copy of the Summary of the Evaluation and Offer and Acceptance contract to MCI WORLDCOM Global Relay for JLBC’s review.

As always, I am available to answer any questions you may have. I can be reached at 542-3336 or Collins_sherri@pop.state.az.us.

Sincerely,

Sherri Collins

CC: Beth Kohler, JLBC
Attachments
October 11, 2001

RE: SUMMARY OF EVALUATION
RFP No. AD010240 Arizona Telecommunications Relay Service
Agency Term Contract: Arizona Commission for the Deaf and the Hard of Hearing

The following Criteria, as identified in the RFP, were used in the evaluation of all proposals submitted under this solicitation.

A. Conformity with Scope of Work/Specifications, terms and conditions and other RFP requirements........... 300 points
B. Cost.................................................................................................................. 300 points
C. Method of Approach.......................................................................................... 200 points
D. Firm, Staff and Qualifications/Experience/Reference........................................... 200 points

Three (3) proposals were received.

1. Hamilton Telecommunications
   101 12th Street
   Aurora, NE 68818

2. MCI Global Relay
   500 Clinton Center Drive
   Clinton, MS 39056

3. Sprint
   13221 Woodland Park Road
   Herndon, VA 20171
Initial evaluation.

Hamilton. Received full points except for the following:
- Price
- Capacity and infrastructure

MCI: Received full points except for the following:
- Price

Sprint: Received full points except for the following:
- 60 word per minute requirement
- IP TRS implementation date requirement
- Caller ID requirement
- Speed of Answer on all call types requirement
- ASLTA certified trainer requirement

Initial evaluation scores were very close (possible points: 1000, score range: 34 points). At the suggestion of the evaluation committee, contract officer determined it necessary to request Best and Final Offers.

Second evaluation.

Hamilton. Received full points except for the following:
- Price

MCI: Received full points except for the following:
- Price
- Missing reference

Sprint: Received full points except for the following:
- 60 word per minute requirement
- ASLTA certified trainer requirement

Evaluation scores, after receiving Best and Final Offers were even closer (possible points: 1000, score range: 3 points). As there were still areas the offerors could improve their proposals, the evaluation committee recommended to the contract officer to issue another request for Best and Final Offers. The evaluation committee felt that this additional request would allow offerors a final opportunity to clear-up any remaining discrepancies from the RFP’s requirements and further improve their price if at all possible.
Final evaluation

Based on the offerors’ response to the Second Best and Final Offer request, the evaluation committee recommended MCI Global Relay for award of RFP AD010240. The following table is a summary of their final allocations.

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<th>Criteria / Points</th>
<th>Hamilton</th>
<th>MCI</th>
<th>Sprint</th>
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<td>1 / 300</td>
<td>300</td>
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<td>2 / 300</td>
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Hamilton and MCI, although both fully compliant with the State’s requirements under this RFP, gave up over 52 and 46 points respectively due to their per minute price as compared to Sprint. (Hamilton $1.28, MCI $1.24). Although Sprint offered the lowest price, $1.05 per conversation minute, the evaluation committee found that their response to the State and Federal governments’ 60-word per minute operator typing speed requirement was not fully compliant.

MCI’s price per minute represents more than a 9% decrease in the price per conversation minute the State currently pays, $1.37. At current usage, this decrease will result in more than $400,000.00 in annual savings and possibly as much as $2 MM over the life of the contract.
DATE: October 18, 2001

TO: Representative Laura Knaperek, Chairman
Members, Joint Legislative Budget Committee

THRU: Richard Stavneak, Director

FROM: Jill Young, Fiscal Analyst
Lorenzo Martinez, Senior Fiscal Analyst

SUBJECT: ARIZONA BOARD OF REGENTS – FOLLOW UP REPORT ON TECHNOLOGY AND RESEARCH INITIATIVE FUND AWARD PROGRAM (PROPOSITION 301)

Request

As a follow up to the Arizona Board of Regents (ABOR) FY 2001 report on the Technology and Research Award Program, ABOR submitted additional information on two items, the Regents Innovation Fund and the Arizona Regents University (ARU).

Recommendation

This item is for information only and no Committee action is required. The Regents Innovation Fund will receive $1,000,000 each year from the Technology and Research Initiative Fund (TRIF) and Arizona Regents University will receive $2,000,000 each year.

Analysis

In response to questions raised by the Committee at the last meeting, ABOR has provided additional information on the ARU and the Regents Innovation Fund.

(Continued)
Arizona Regents University
ABOR will allocate $2,000,000 each year to develop ARU. The intent of ARU is to coordinate the e-learning activities of the universities and fund development of new technology delivered degree programs. All services, programs, and courses will be provided by the universities. ARU will not offer its own programs or courses. Funding will be allocated to the universities to develop e-education programs in Engineering, Math and Science Teacher Education, and Nursing Education. While each student may take courses from more than one university, the student will choose one university as a home institution. The ARU system will provide on-line support for student services such as admissions, registration, financial aid, and course articulation.

The Auditor General issued a report that stated development of ARU should continue; however, the report also stated that additional research on demand for ARU should also be conducted.

Regents Innovation Fund
ABOR will allocate $1,000,000 each year to the Regents Innovation Fund. The Innovation Fund will provide shorter-term grants for high-priority, limited duration projects consistent with the goals of Proposition 301 and TRIF. ABOR directed that the Innovation Fund monies for FY 2002 and FY 2003 be used to support two major new priorities, Learner-Centered Education and Accountability for the Technology and Research Initiative Fund.

Learner-Centered Education – ABOR allocated $500,000 to implement unique, innovative projects at the universities to develop teaching skills, research studies, assessment mechanisms, and new courses that focus on the needs of learners and their prospective employers.

Accountability for the Technology and Research Initiative Fund – ABOR will also allocate an undetermined portion of the Innovation Fund to support the establishment of a Business Advisory Team and the development of a comprehensive and credible evaluation program for the TRIF.

Attachment A shows the other projects that will be funded from TRIF.

RS:JY:LM:ss
Attachment
## Distribution of University Technology and Research Initiative Fund (Proposition 301) (in Millions)

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October 10, 2001

Board Members

Kay McKay
Flagstaff
President
George H. Amos, III
Tucson
Judy Gignac
Sierra Vista
Chris Herstam
Phoenix
Jack B. Jewett
Tucson
Christina Palacios
Tucson
Gary Stuart
Phoenix
Donald J. Ulrich, Jr.
Paradise Valley

Student Regents
Myrinda Robinson
Flagstaff
Matthew Meaker
Tucson

Jane Dee Hull
Governor of Arizona
Jaime A. Molera
Superintendent of
Public Instruction

Executive Director
Linda J. Blessing

TO: Members of the Joint Legislative Budget Committee

FROM: Linda Blessing, Executive Director
Arizona Board of Regents

SUBJECT: Proposition 301 Funding; Arizona Regents University, Regents Innovation Fund

At the October 4 meeting of the Joint Legislative Budget Committee, the Technology and Research Initiative Fund (TRIF) report for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2001 was presented. As required by ARS 42-5049(E)(2) the TRIF is continuously appropriated to the Arizona Board of Regents with Education 2000 (Proposition 301) voter-approved, sales tax revenues.

In the meeting questions were raised regarding the use of funding and the nature and necessity of current projects. Specifically, what is the purpose of the Regents Innovation Fund; what is Arizona Regents University (ARU) and is this project, being promoted by the Board with tri-university support and direct involvement, duplicative or unnecessary in these times of fiscal constraint? The Board strongly believes that both ARU and Innovation Fund projects will directly benefit Arizona citizens particularly during these difficult economic times. These Board initiatives focus on issues such as workforce development and cost-effective, distance learning.

We have attached fact sheets both for the Innovation Fund and ARU and would be pleased to expand upon this with additional information, if desired. Also included is an excerpt from the recently completed Auditor General’s Sunset Review performance audit of the Board, that directly addresses ARU and a pertinent portion of the Governor’s Task Force on Higher Education Report, which supports this initiative.

Please contact me at (602) 229-2505 or linda.blessing@asu.edu if I can answer any questions or provide additional information about these programs, which we believe, will have significant and far-reaching impacts on Arizona’s economy and education systems.

Attachments

C: Richard Stavneak, JLBC Director
   Board of Regents
   Council of Presidents

Arizona State University  Northern Arizona University  University of Arizona
THE ARIZONA REGENTS UNIVERSITY INITIATIVE

FACT SHEET

WHAT IS ARU
- Arizona Regents University (ARU) is making Arizona public higher education more responsive to statewide educational needs; especially those connected with economic development priorities. ARU draws together existing resources by coordinating the e-learning activities of the three Arizona universities, and funding development of new technology-delivered degree programs, with particular emphasis on collaborative programs that target critical workforce needs.

WHO WANTS ARU
- Increasing student access and improving workforce development through technology-delivered education is a top priority of the Governor's Task Force on Higher Education, the Arizona Town Hall, the Arizona business community, and Arizona citizens when they voted for Proposition 301. ARU is designed to help fulfill these priorities.

- The September 2001 Auditor General's Sunset Review Report of the Arizona Board of Regents (No. 01-27) recommends that the "Development of the Arizona Regents University should continue."

HOW DOES ARU BENEFIT ARIZONA CITIZENS
- ARU encourages anytime, anyplace e-education for citizens who cannot afford more expensive private institutions, who cannot attend a university campus because of where they live, or who cannot attend traditional classes because they are not offered at times that compliment their family or work commitments.

- ARU increases access and addresses workforce development by funding e-education degree programs where professional independent surveys indicate the need is greatest. As a consortium of the three state universities, ARU is currently allocating $250,000 per year per program for a maximum of three years for start-up funding to the universities to develop e-education programs in Engineering, Math and Science Teacher Education, and Nursing Education. In addition, ARU is planning to support seamless student services that will facilitate course articulation between the universities, student admissions, registration, financial aid and other student services as students take technology-delivered courses from multiple universities. ARU does not have its own programs, courses, faculty or students, all of these are provided by the three Arizona public universities.

- For example, the Masters degree in engineering program is designed to take the programs to the working engineer. This program is expected to expand from over 50 students to over 450 students in the next 4-5 years. The program offers 14 areas of study: such agriculture & biosystems, chemical, civil, mechanical & aerospace systems engineering. The program features an active business oversight advisory board and the active collaboration of faculty from the three universities.
- Enrollments tend to increase in weak economic times. In fact, ASU and UA have experienced major increases in enrollments in recent years. All three universities have main campus enrollments caps. E-education can help meet enrollment growth pressure without having to turn away qualified Arizona students and without the building of major new facilities to meet peaks in student enrollment demand.

- When one university cannot support a needed academic degree program, multiple universities contributing faculty resources can develop collaborative programs that avoid unnecessary duplication of resources.

- E-education is one of the fastest growing delivery modes in public and private higher education. Growth rates are significant, classes fill up quickly, many with on-campus students, which frees up valuable facility space for new students.
Arizona At Risk
An Urgent Call For Action

The Report of
The Governor's Task Force
on Higher Education

December 2000
2) Institute an annual salary adjustment for IT staff, which will help universities and community colleges maintain pace with salaries in the market.

The overall sum needed to support a phased salary increase for university IT employees is $7,872,000 plus a yearly 5% increase in each university’s IT salary budget to pay for annual market adjustments. The latter will help the universities keep pace with annual increases in the IT job market. The community colleges would require $3,195,000 for a phased salary increase plus a 5% increase in each college district’s IT salary budget to fund annual market adjustments to keep pace with annual increases in the IT job market.

Arizona Regents University

This initiative will make the Arizona university system more responsive to statewide educational needs, especially those connected with economic development priorities. It will provide access to citizens who are time- and place-bound, life-long learners, or disabled. It will utilize technology-delivered and distance courses and other improvements in access to higher education. It will draw together existing resources from the three public universities and initiate development of new resources, giving preference to new programs that support Arizona’s competitive position in the New Economy.

The initiative is proceeding in three overlapping phases. A web site, AZDistanceEducation.org, has already been developed to describe current course and program offerings. In Phase Two new degree programs will be developed, as needed. In Phase Three, an appropriate continuing organization, currently called the Arizona Regents University, will be established. In September 2000, the Board of Regents retained Dr. Sally Johnstone, of the Western Cooperative for Educational Telecommunications, to facilitate the design and development of this organization. To implement Phases Two and Three of the Arizona Regents University will require an annual operating budget of at least $2 million.

Cooperation Between the Two Sectors

Arizona’s public universities and community colleges are committed to offering technology-delivered education to the state in close inter-institutional collaboration and through cooperation between boards. The eventual form of Arizona Learning Systems and of the Arizona Regents University will be shaped by strong existing transfer and articulation agreements and by thoughtfully negotiated division of effort between the university and community college systems.
ARIZONA BOARD OF REGENTS
REGENTS INNOVATION FUND

Project Justification

The Regents Innovation Fund was established by the Board of Regents in March 2001 in order to complement the 5-year allocations from the Technology and Research Initiative Fund (TRIF) by providing shorter-term grants for high-priority, limited-duration projects consistent with the goals of Proposition 301 and TRIF. The overall amount of the Regents Innovation Fund was set by the Board at $1 million each year, with a revised budget due in January 2002, reflecting any decrease in estimated sales tax revenues. Performance measures were not proposed at that time but are expected to accompany specific proposals for use of these funds. In August 2001, the Regents directed that the Innovation Fund monies for FY2002-03 be used to support two major new priorities, Learner-Centered Education and Accountability for the TRIF.

Learner-Centered Education--At its retreat in August 2001, the Board directed that one-half of the fund ($500,000) for this year be allocated to the universities through a RFP process to implement unique, innovative, scaleable projects at the universities in developing new learner-centered courses, teaching skills, research studies and assessment mechanisms. The purpose of these projects is to ensure that e-learning programs for increasing access to higher education and developing Arizona’s workforce are effectively centered on the needs of the learners and their prospective employers.

This allocation is consistent with the statutory mandate that TRIF funds be utilized to support economic development and to implement recommendations from the Governor’s Task Force on Higher Education. In its report, Arizona at Risk, issued in December 2000, the task force recommended that workforce development be enhanced through “learner-centered academic programs.” Under this heading, the task force specifically supported “plans for the community colleges and universities to focus academic programs more thoroughly and systematically on the needs of learners and their prospective employers.” The Task Force urged the boards and institutions to “focus existing and new academic programs on the learning needs of students and the knowledge, abilities and skills they require for success in the New Economy and in their family and civic lives. As a result of this effort, learning will be more outcomes-based, self-paced, team-centered, active and experiential” (page 11).

Accountability for the Technology and Research Initiative Fund (TRIF)--The Regents have also directed that another portion of the Innovation Fund be utilized to support the establishment of a Business Advisory Team and the development of a comprehensive and credible evaluation program for the TRIF. The evaluation program would include enhancement, consolidation and analysis of all the performance measures mandated by ARS 15-1648D for individual 301-funded initiatives, the first-ever review of the universities’ general education programs and evaluation of the effectiveness of workforce development programs through a new survey of employers.

The amount necessary to perform this evaluation is still to be determined. The remaining balance in the innovation fund is unallocated and is being held in reserve.

C:\My Documents\RIF Fact Sheet.doc
DATE: October 18, 2001

TO: Representative Laura Knaperek, Chairman
Members, Joint Legislative Budget Committee

FROM: Richard Stavneak, Director

SUBJECT: REPORT ON RECENT AGENCY SUBMISSIONS

Request

The JLBC has received a number of statutorily required reports during the past month. Each report is briefly described below.

Recommendation

The reports are for information only and no Committee action is required. We do not intend to discuss the reports at the JLBC meeting unless a member has a question. If any member knows in advance that they will have questions, we would appreciate knowing that before the meeting so as to ensure the relevant agency is available.

Reports

A) Attorney General - Report on Model Court.

Laws 2001, Chapter 238 requires the Office of the Attorney General to submit a quarterly report summarizing program information related to Model Court. It submitted its latest report on September 27. The report should provide a summary of projected expenditures by line item for the following quarter, including the number of Full-Time Equivalent (FTE) Positions and Federal matching funds. It should also include actual expenditures for the previous quarter as well as the reduction in the backlog of cases, the number of children placed, the type of placement, and the number of children still awaiting placement. The agency projects expenditures for the 1st Quarter of FY 2002 to be approximately $523,000, with a total of 49 FTE Positions. The amount in Federal matching funds earned through June 2001 was more than $1,000,000.

The agency’s summary for the 4th Quarter of FY 2001 reports total expenditures at approximately $711,100. As of January 1, 1999 there were approximately 6,000 open dependency cases (cases open before statewide implementation of Model Court). By the end of the 4th Quarter of FY 2001, 1,175 of the original 6,000 remain. The total number of children (both new and existing) placed during the 4th Quarter was 935. Of this amount, 311 children represent backlog cases. The number of cases does not correspond directly to the number of children (i.e. each case may involve more than one child).
935 children placed, 135 were adopted by a relative, 365 were adopted by a non-relative, 113 were placed with a guardian related to the child, 40 were placed with a guardian not related to the child, and 292 were reunited with a parent. The agency reports a total of 6,170 children still awaiting placement. These children represent both new and backlog cases. The agency could not provide a breakout of the number of backlog children still awaiting placement.


Pursuant to a footnote in the FY 2002 - FY 2003 General Appropriation Act, the Department of Economic Security (DES) has submitted the bimonthly Children Services report for October 1. The report includes actual expenditure and caseload data through August 2001. Year-to-date expenditures totaled $8,628,249, or 14.6% higher than the $7,526,200 projected in DES’ last bimonthly report. DES still projects a state funds deficit of $(5,270,400). As we noted in our review of the last bimonthly report, if the percentage of children receiving Children Services qualifying for Federal Title IV-E funding is higher than DES projects, this state funds deficit could be smaller. We would also note the difficulty in projecting expenditures this early in the fiscal year. The number of children receiving services in August was 15,301, a decrease of 14 children from July 2001.


As the vendor for the state’s Arizona Works pilot welfare program, MAXIMUS is required to report bimonthly on Arizona Works. It submitted its latest report on September 14. Total caseloads in Arizona Works increased by 3.5% from July 2000 to July 2001. Over the same period of time, welfare caseloads in the rest of Maricopa County increased 21.5%.


Pursuant to A.R.S. § 26-303, on October 2, 2001, the Governor amended the earlier proclamation of September 12, 2001 (PCA 22002) relating to terrorists attacks. Pursuant to A.R.S. § 35-192, the Governor directed that an additional sum of $160,000 from the General Fund be made available for expenditure by the Director of the State Division of Emergency Management. The proclamation in September had authorized the expenditure of $40,000. The total authorized expenditure for the emergency is $200,000.

Under A.R.S. § 35-192, the Governor is authorized to approve the expenditure of $200,000 or less for any single disaster or emergency. Authorization of larger expenditures cannot be made without consent of a majority of the members of the State Emergency Council. The total amount of all expenditures for States of Emergency cannot exceed $4,000,000 for any fiscal year. There have been three emergency declarations or amendments in FY 2002 with total authorized expenditures of $400,000 from the General Fund.

This proclamation does not involve the Governor’s deployment of Arizona National Guard personnel to perform airport security operations across the state. National Guard personnel performing security activities will be in federal Title 32 status. They will be under the Governor’s control, but the federal government will cover their pay and benefits. Federal tort claims will also apply. The deployment is expected to last until the new federal airport security program is implemented in approximately four to six months.
E) **Department of Environmental Quality - Report on Progress of Vehicle Emissions Identification, Testing, and Repair Research Study.**

Laws 2000, Chapter 404 requires the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ) to report at least every 6 months on the results of the Vehicle Emissions Identification, Testing, and Repair Research Study. We received the first progress report on October 11, 2001.

The Vehicle Emissions Identification, Testing, and Repair Research Study was created by Laws 2000, Chapter 404 to evaluate alternative vehicle emissions testing technologies, and to look at ways to improve compliance with the program. Proposals from contractors were solicited, and ADEQ formed a contractor selection committee to review the proposals. The final contract was awarded on April 3, 2001 to Eastern Research Group (ERG) of Austin, Texas.

Since the contract was not awarded until halfway through the period covered by the report, only 3 months of contractor activity is discussed. In this time ERG developed a work plan for the research study. The plan’s first step involves developing a baseline of Vehicle Emissions Inspection (VEI) program compliance and non-compliance and calculating the associated emissions reductions. Also, ERG will evaluate an assortment of alternative emissions testing technologies, using data collection in the field where applicable.

As another component of the plan, ERG will assess a variety of technologies designed to improve motorist compliance with the VEI program and conduct focus groups and a survey to look at motorist attitudes about the program. Based on its findings from these studies, ERG will present ADEQ with an evaluation of each of the alternative technologies and compliance options, including costs and emissions reductions associated with each.

F) **Arizona Game and Fish Department - Quarterly Report on the Game and Fish Publications Revolving Fund.**

A.R.S. § 17-269 (B) requires the Arizona Game and Fish Department to submit a report quarterly on the Game and Fish Publications Revolving Fund to the Joint Legislative Budget Committee. The fund was established to facilitate production and distribution of department publications and information. Fund revenues are derived from the sale of publications. If at any time monies in the fund exceed $80,000, the excess amount must be immediately reverted to the Game and Fish Fund.

We received the report for the 4th quarter of FY 2001 on September 27, 2001. A summary of the Publications Revolving Fund cash balance for FY 2001 by quarter is shown below.

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RS:Im