

MINUTES

JOINT LEGISLATIVE EDUCATION OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE

Monday October 31, 2011

10:00 am

Room 643: Legislative Office Building

The Joint Legislative Education Oversight Committee met on Monday, October 31, 2011, at 10:00 a.m. in room 643 of the Legislative Office Building. Representative Bryan Holloway, House Co-Chairman, presided. The following members were present at the meeting: Co-Chairman Tillman, Co-Chairman Holloway, Co-Chairman Johnson, Senator Brock, Senator Pate, Senator Preston, Senator Robinson, Senator Soucek, Senator Stevens, Representative Blackwell, Representative Brandon, Representative Goodman, Representative Hilton, Representative Lucas, Representative Pridgen, Representative Sanderson, and Representative Stam.

Chairman Holloway called the meeting to order and announced that the committee would take a brief break at 12:00 p.m. for lunch, and re-convene at 1:00 p.m. Chairman Holloway then introduced the Sergeant at Arms. Immediately following the introduction of the Sergeant at Arms the Chairman requested a motion to approve the Committee Budget. Co-Chairman Johnson made a motion for approval, the Ayes have it and the Budget was so approved. Chairman Holloway then requested a motion to approve the Minutes to the October 4, 2011 Joint Legislative Education Oversight Committee. Representative Lucas made a motion to approve the prior meeting's Minutes, the Ayes have it and the Minutes are so approved.

Representative Holloway then recognized Research staff member, Dee Atkinson to discuss the overview of the Education Oversight Committee website. She discussed what was available on the website for the members of the Committee for their non-interim study committees. Posted on the website are the meeting dates and their respective agendas, presentations from the speakers who spoke at the different meetings, Committee membership lists, reports to the General Assembly, and lastly reports received at the end of each session that are compiled for Education Oversight.

Senator Robinson asked Dee Atkinson if the Minutes were also posted on the website in order to review them before the next Committee meeting. Dee Atkinson responded to the Senator's question by stating that they could post the Minutes online for the members to review prior to the next Committee meeting. Chairman Holloway then asked if there were any other questions before addressing the other items on the Agenda.

Chairman Holloway then reminded members of the committee to fill out their per-diem forms for the Sergeant at Arms to collect.

National Literacy Initiatives and Social Promotion Policy

Chairman Holloway introduced Dr. Treana Bowling, Literacy Project Director, SERVE Center, University of North Carolina at Greensboro as well as, Dr. Christie Cavanaugh, Reading Education Consultant.

Members of the Committee that asked questions were: Senator Pate, Senator Tillman, Representative Brandon, Representative Blackwell, Representative Lucas, Representative Goodman, Senator Robinson and Representative Johnson.

See attached, labeled number 1, for copy of this presentation.

North Carolina's Statewide Literacy Initiatives and Social Promotion Policy

Chairman Holloway introduced Dr. Rebecca Garland, Chief Academic Officer with the N.C. Department of Public Instruction.

Members of the Committee that asked questions were: Senator Tillman, Senator Pate, Representative Stam, Senator Brock, and Representative Blackwell.

See attached, labeled number 2, for copy of this presentation.

Example of a Local Literacy Initiative for Struggling Readers

Chairman Holloway introduced Dr. Karen Erickson, Professor, Division of Speech and Hearing Sciences, School of Medicine, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and Ms. Vickie Smith, Director of Literacy and Professional Development with Orange County Schools

Members of the Committee that asked questions were: Senator Pate, Representative Stam, and Senator Robinson.

See attached, labeled number 3, for copy of this presentation.

K-3 Teacher Preparation in Literacy Assessment and Teaching

Chairman Holloway introduced Dr. Steve Amendum, Assistant Professor, College of Education at North Carolina State University.

Members of the Committee that asked questions were: Representative Blackwell and Representative Stam.

See attached, labeled number 4, for copy of this presentation.

K-12 Current Initiatives and Future Plans

Chairman Holloway introduced Dr. June Atkinson, Superintendent of Public Instruction

Members of the Committee that asked questions were: Representative Brandon, Senator Pate, Representative Goodman, Representative Blackwell, Representative Pridgen, and Representative Lucas.

See attached, labeled number 5, for copy of this presentation.

Community College Current Initiatives

Chairman Holloway introduced Dr. Sharon Morrissey, NC Community College System, Senior Vice President for Academic and Student Services and Chief Academic Officer.

Members of the Committee that asked questions were: Representative Blackwell, Senator Pate, Representative Johnson, Senator Brock, and Representative Brandon.

See attached, labeled number 6, for copy of this presentation.

Public University Current Efforts and Future Plans

Chairman Holloway introduced Dr. Suzanne Ortega, The University of North Carolina, Senior Vice President of Academic Affairs.

Members of the Committee that asked questions were: Representative Stam, Senator Brock, and Representative Blackwell.

See attached, labeled number 7, for copy of this presentation.

Private Colleges and Universities Current Efforts and Future Plans

Chairman Holloway introduced Dr. A. Hope Williams, President of North Carolina Independent Colleges and Universities.

Dr. Williams addressed the committee on North Carolina independent colleges and Universities initiatives and specific questions regarding college readiness. She discussed a few facts so the members of the committee would know a generalized background about how many Universities, Independent Colleges and North Carolina Undergrads we currently hold in our state. Dr. Williams referenced 36 private non-profit universities and independent colleges across the state, 40,000 North Carolina undergrads attending our Colleges and Universities and NCICU currently awards 1/3 of baccalaureate degrees in the state. She emphasized that NCICU takes North Carolina students very seriously and continues to strive for them all to be successful.

Dr. Williams then spoke towards remediation challenges on every campus. She said that finding a common definition is difficult based on the different ways remediation affects different Colleges and Universities. She spoke about the progression, attention, and work being done with the UNC System and Community Colleges to improve career and college readiness.

Dr. Williams spoke about how North Carolina Colleges believe there is much more needed than a score on a test in determining their student's remediation. Other ways Colleges are seeking to improve this is to look at other factors such as essay writing, interviews, technology literacy, maturity, motivation, and determination. Deans and others College and University Leadership have found willingness for students to work hard can mean just as much as their G.P.A. They have determined that being able to control not only your work, but your work habits in a college environment drastically increase a student's readiness.

She spoke to the Committee about how they are focusing more towards the idea of being developmental because that assumes continued growth verses remediation which implies catching up. Each of their Colleges has a Resource Center where students can get peer tutoring as well as bridge the gap from K-12 and get involved in transition programs. There have been no set plans to change the remediation program dramatically but College and Universities are still continuing to look for ways to improve college readiness and are even suggesting tying it into social media.

Institutions are also currently seeking to communicate with teachers and the public school community in K-12 in order to look at handling readiness issues before they even get to the college level. Teacher education programs are difficult because each teacher has to try and meet individual needs of students when every student's background and learning curve is different. Changes in these programs have happened to improve readiness and teacher education; however it is hard to figure out what factors are actually working.

NCICU has several community projects currently in place in order to help student with college readiness and remediation. Some of these programs consist of camps and programs Colleges offer in the summer for students to get acquainted with a College and University atmosphere and educate students on college access and success, leadership programs and Saturday morning

academies. ELON is currently running a program that has been going for three years that has had a great amount of success. They take third grade student who cannot read and stage an intervention with the student and their families to help better prepare the child not only in the classroom, but at home as well. Dr. Williams concluded with the notion that there is a lot of room for improvement and Colleges and Universities are striving for all of their students to be college ready when they enroll.

Chairman Holloway thanked Dr. Williams for speaking at the meeting.

Members of the Committee that asked questions were: Representative Blackwell and Representative Johnson.

National Efforts on College Readiness and Remediation

Chairman Holloway introduced Dr. Judith Rizzo, James B Hunt, Jr. Institute for Education Leadership and Policy, Director and Chief Executive Officer and Dr. Dewayne Matthews, Lumina Foundation for Education, Vice President for Policy and Strategy.

Members of the Committee that asked questions were: Representative Stam, Representative Blackwell, and Senator Brock.

See attached, labeled number 9, for copy of this presentation.

There being no further business, Chairman Holloway adjourned the meeting.

Cara Philon, Committee Clerk

Representative Holloway, Chairman

