

IOWA COLLEGE STUDENT AID COMMISSION

MINUTES OF MEETING

July 13, 2012

10:00 a.m.

**Iowa College Student Aid Commission
603 East 12th Street, 5th Floor, Des Moines, Iowa 50319
Conference Room**

Members Present:

Janet Adams	Roger Claypool
Rob Denson	Bob Donley
Crystal Ford	Colleen Hunt
Fred Moore	Herman Quirnbach
Doug Shull	Karolyn Wells
Cindy Winckler	

Members Absent:

Randy Feenstra	Ron Jorgensen
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Staff Present:

Todd Brown	John Gilman
Deb Krueger	Julie Leeper
Karen Misjak	Julie Ntem
Carolyn Small	Ashley Wendt

Attorney General Present:

David VanCompernelle

Guests Present:

Jeff Birdsley	BTC Capital Management
Jason Blake	Iowa Attorney General's Office
Lana Kirk	Indiana Wesleyan University
Robin Madison	Legislative Services Agency
John Parker	Iowa Student Loan
Jessica Whitney	Iowa Attorney General's Office
Melissa Stover	Bankers Trust
Austin Rhoades	University of Phoenix
Dr. Elizabeth Tice	Ashford University
Jenny Tyler	Carney & Appleby Law Firm representing Ashford University
Matthew Vallejo	Ashford University

Call to Order

The Iowa College Student Aid Commission met for a regularly scheduled meeting on July 13, 2012. Commission Chair Adams called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. with a quorum present.

Executive Director's Report

Ms. Misjak said teams from both entities have been assigned and are meeting to keep everything in line for an October 1, 2012 final date regarding the FFELP Portfolio transition. Project manager level meetings will begin next week.

GEAR UP Iowa Summer School took place in the Success Center located on the ground floor. The lab seats 30 students at one time and on the first day more than 90 GEAR UP Iowa sophomores from Des Moines East High School showed up to take advantage of the program. By utilizing GEAR UP Iowa funds to hire one additional teacher for the month of June, 83 GEAR UP Iowa cohort students from Des Moines East High School were able to recover one credit from a required class. Eighty-two percent of the students in the junior class are now on track for graduation. Ms. Misjak added that GEAR UP Iowa staff are also making sure that these students take the ACT, fill out the FAFSA as well as visit at least two colleges.

Ms. Misjak said there have been 18 Iowa attorneys served through the John R Justice Loan Repayment Program. This is a federally-funded program through the Department of Justice.

A total of 147 individuals applied for funding through the Iowa Registered Nurse and Nurse Educator Loan Forgiveness Program in 2012. In all, 40 Iowa nurses and nurse educators received benefits. Ms. Misjak said staff would like to see additional funding from the State to help more students.

Consent Agenda

Chair Adams pulled out the Proposed Changes to Chapter 27 "Iowa Grant Program", Proposed New Chapter 23 "Skilled Workforce Shortage Tuition Grant Program" and the CoBro Contract from the consent agenda.

Motion: Commissioner Shull moved to approve the Consent Agenda items with the following items removed from the list: Proposed Changes to Chapter 27 "Iowa Grant Program", Proposed New Chapter 23 "Skilled Workforce Shortage Tuition Grant Program" and the CoBro Contract. Commissioner Ford seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

Ms. Leeper said the proposed changes to Chapter 27 "Iowa Grant Program" provide updates that will improve administration of the Iowa Grant program. Under the explanation, it was not

entirely explicit by using the words "killed in the line of duty". The proposed change would be to use the words "killed in action" instead.

Motion: Commissioner Ford moved to approve the proposed changes to Administrative Rules Chapter 27 – "Iowa Grant Program". Commissioner Denson seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

Ms. Leeper said the proposed new Administrative Rules Chapter 23 provide guidelines for implementation of the new Skilled Workforce Shortage Tuition Grant Program. Commissioner Denson said the Administrative Rule will not be in place for the fall semester, even though a number of students will qualify in this program for the fall semester.

Motion: Commissioner Denson moved to authorize Commission staff to process and authorize student awards under the Skilled Workforce Shortage Tuition Grant Program consistent with state statute pending completion of the Administrative Rules so qualified students will be able to receive funding for the fall 2012 term. Commissioner Shull seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

Ms. Misjak said the users of the CoBro system will be GEAR UP schools and it will be used to only track the GEAR UP Iowa cohort. The schools will be responsible for inputting their own data. The system matches up with the Annual Performance Report that staff must submit to the U.S. Department of Education. Ms. Misjak said staff feels it is important to have all of the information to help determine the need of students and ensure they are provided with all the resources needed to make their futures successful. Mr. Gilman said this system will allow real-time data entry and an accountability measure will be put in place to ensure all schools enter their data. Commissioner Denson would like a yearly update on this system to ensure it is working and requests that it be brought before the Commission for renewal. Commissioner Denson also requests that the agency be defined in the contract as College Aid Commission. Mr. Van Compernelle will make the suggested changes to the contract.

Motion: Commissioner Denson moved to authorize staff to enter into a contract with CoBro Consulting for a Cohort Student Data Tracking System per State of Iowa RFP0712284066. Commissioner Wells seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

Ashford University HLC Accreditation

Ms. Small said that the initial accreditation for Ashford University by the Western Association Accrediting Commission for Senior Colleges and Universities (WASC) has been denied. As of today, Ashford University remains accredited by the Higher Learning Commission (HLC). Staff is questioning the denial and has drafted a letter to be sent out and is asking for approval from the Commission to do so. HLC has already taken action against Ashford. Commissioner

Quirnbach feels an expression from the Commission would be appropriate and requests to remain informed of the status. He adds that staff should seek the guidance from the Attorney General's (AG's) regarding legal action the Commission can take as it continues to monitor the situation. In particular staff should seek guidance on what can be done within Code, such as limiting Ashford's aid eligibility. Chair Adams said the consensus is that staff will send the initial letter and have the Legislative Committee work with the AG's office on the legal actions that the Commission has available. Commission Winckler wants to make sure that students are protected through the online services equally as much as the students that are attending on campus. The denial was specific to the online coursework. Commissioner Quirnbach would like the Commission to take it's action prior to the HLC's February deadline.

Motion: Commissioner Moore moved to have the Legislative Committee begin work on the options for the next steps regarding Ashford University. Commissioner Shull seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

Bankers Trust Update

Bankers Trust presented an update on the performance of the funds for the GEAR UP Trust. Commissioner Quirnbach would like to know what the fees are and how they translate to the portfolio. Ms. Stover said she would forward that information on to the Executive Director to send out to all Commissioners.

Legislative Committee Report

Chair Adams said there is nothing additional to report that has not already been covered in the meeting previously.

Staff Reports

Ms. Kruger presented the FY 2012 Revenue and Expenditure Summary and said staff is expecting larger expenses to come through in July and August due to programming issues which delayed billing from the collection vendor.

Ms. Ntem provided a report on I Have A Plan Iowa™. A comparison of all charts was provided to show the growth in the program.

Commission adjourned at 11:16 a.m.



JANET ADAMS, CHAIR



CRYSTAL FORD, VICE CHAIR