

IOWA COLLEGE STUDENT AID COMMISSION

MINUTES OF MEETING

November 16, 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	Ron Jorgensen
Fred Moore	Herman Quirnbach
Doug Shull	Elizabeth Sullivan
Jeremy Varner	Karolyn Wells

Members Absent:

Randy Feenstra	Cindy Winckler
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Staff Present:

Todd Brown	Heather Doe
John Gilman	Julie Leeper
Karen Misjak	Carolyn Small
Ashley Wendt	

Attorney General Present:

David VanCompernelle

Guests Present:

Angela Carlson	Capri College
Jim Carney	Carney Law Firm (Ashford University)
John Carreon	Kaplan University
Greg Geoffrey	Ashford University
Sean Gousha	Ashford University
John Hintze	Ahlers Law Firm (Ashford University)
Sheri Jones	Ashford University
Robin Madison	Legislative Services Agency
Rich Pattenande	Ashford University
Linda Schwinn	Capri College
David Sweely	Colorado State University
Jenny Tyler	Carney Law Firm (Ashford University)
Matthew Vallejo	Ashford University
Leona Verdith	Inste Bible College
Jeremy Wells	Kaplan University

Call to Order

The Iowa College Student Aid Commission met for a regularly scheduled meeting on November 16, 2012. Commission Chair Adams called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. with a quorum present.

Meeting Minutes September 21, 2012

Motion: Commissioner Donley moved to approve the September 21, 2012 Meeting Minutes as written. Commissioner Varner seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

Executive Director's Report

Ms. Misjak told Commissioners that the Iowa Building will be torn down by July 1, 2013 and the Commission will be moving. Staff will be touring buildings and all options are off the Capitol Complex, which means the rent will increase significantly and is expected to be around \$13.00 per square foot. The current office space is around 14,000 square feet and staff is expecting to find space between 5,000 and 8,000 square feet.

To kick off College Application Week, Ms. Misjak said Iowa College Aid hosted a virtual "Get Prepped 4 College" event at College Week Live on October 29, 2012. Currently the College Application Week program is being piloted in the following schools: Algona, Clinton, Des Moines Public Schools, Lake Park, and Waterloo Public Schools. It began October 29, 2012 and ends November 16, 2012. This program provides information for students about the college application process and reaches out to those who haven't thought about it or planned to do it. Ms. Doe shared a video from one of the events at the Des Moines Public Schools.

Consent Agenda

Chair Adams asked for a motion to approve the consent agenda. Commissioner Ford abstained from the vote due to a conflict of interest as her employer is Kaplan University which is listed under the consent agenda.

Motion: Commissioner Shull moved to approve the consent agenda as written. Commissioner Donley seconded the motion which passed unanimously with Commissioner Ford abstaining.

Ashford University Discussion

Ms. Small said Commission Chair Adams sent a request to Ashford University for information regarding the University's response to issues reflected in the Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC) decision to deny the University's initial accreditation application, and the Higher Learning Commission's (HLC) request that the University substantiate its continued compliance with the HLC's accreditation standards. Ashford responded to the Commission's information request three days ahead of schedule and staff feels the response is acceptable. Ms. Small introduced Richard Pattenaude, the president of Ashford University.

President Pattenaude said he understands why the actions taken by WASC were cause for concern and Ashford University has taken them seriously. Two things Ashford University is working on are to enhance the student experience and to increase the students success for those who attend our University. President Pattenaude introduced Dr. Greg Geoffrey, past president of Iowa State University, who will be assuming the role of chair of Ashford University's board of trustees in March of 2013. Dr. Geoffrey said his goal as chair will be to make sure programs are high quality and that students are well served.

President Pattenaude said Ashford University is striving for quality for the for-profit sector. There is a commitment from top to bottom to make programs affordable and accessible. Ashford University is moving from a focus on recruitment to a focus on retention.

In response to the Commission's request for the University's response to the HLC, the University expects to submit a response to the Higher Learning Commission on December 1, 2012 and will submit that response to the Commission as soon as it is approved by the HLC. President Pattenaude also added that each student will be assigned an advisor, and in addition, the University is improving the induction process that all students will go through to include an orientation period.

In a response to a question from Commissioner Quirnbach, President Pattenaude said Ashford University follows the national standards when hiring faculty. Ashford University relies on external evaluation of their programs, and if a program is unacceptable it is redesigned. The core academic model is pretty sound.

President Pattenaude said Ashford University has submitted a re-application for initial accreditation with WASC. They have a visit scheduled in December and a visit in April. They expect to hear from WASC by June.

Legislative Committee Report

Motion: Commissioner Moore moved to approve the proposed budget to be presented by Commissioners during the budget hearing with the Governor. Commissioner Shull seconded the motion. With a roll call vote as follows:

Aye:

Robert Denson
Karolyn Wells
Jeremy Varner
Fred Moore
Elizabeth Sullivan

No:

Janet Adams
Crystal Ford
Doug Shull
Roger Claypool
Bob Donley

Tie vote, motion loses.

Commissioner Donley said he would not support proposing a 4% increase for all students with the exception of those attending for-profit schools. Commissioner Ford agreed and said all Iowa students attending all sectors should be equally supported by the Commission. Commissioner Donley concurred and said the Commission should support all students in the state or not ask for any increase at all. Commissioner Donley reminded Commissioners that tuition is increasing for all students and reiterated his support of a 4% increase for all students in all sectors.

Senator Quirnbach reminded Commissioners that Ashford University is seeking to move its accreditation to the west coast. If this occurs, students at the University will no longer qualify for this grant money. Students at Ashford currently receive approximately 25% of the for-profit Iowa Tuition Grant funding. He believed the recommendation for level funding is the best course of action and that any increase for the for-profit schools would be difficult for the Legislature to pass. Commissioner Moore said he would not support an increase for the for-profit sector. Commissioner Jorgenson agreed with Commissioners Moore and Quirnbach.

Commissioner Denson said it would be illogical to award additional funding given the knowledge that the student base in the sector may shrink significantly. Commission Chair Adams worried about public perception if the Commissioners singled out one entity.

Motion: Commissioner Donley moved the proposed budget with the addition of a 4% increase for the for-profit sector. Commissioner Ford seconded the motion. With a roll call vote as follows:

Aye:

Janet Adams
Crystal Ford
Bob Donley

No:

Doug Shull
Robert Denson
Karolyn Wells
Jeremy Varner
Roger Claypool
Fred Moore
Elizabeth Sullivan

Motion did not pass.

Motion: Commissioner Moore moved to approve the originally proposed budget to be presented by Commissioners during the budget hearing with the Governor. Commissioner Shull seconded the motion. With a roll call vote as follows:

Aye:

Doug Shull
Robert Denson
Karolyn Wells

Jeremy Varner
Roger Claypool
Fred Moore
Elizabeth Sullivan

No:

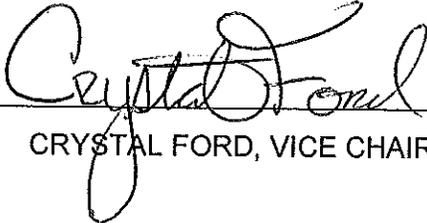
Janet Adams
Crystal Ford
Bob Donley

Motion passed.

Commission adjourned at 11:47 a.m.



JANET ADAMS, CHAIR



CRYSTAL FORD, VICE CHAIR