

MINUTES
President's Advisory Board on Tribal Colleges and Universities
Washington, DC
February 11 - 12, 2008

Call to Order / Roll Call:

Ron His Horse is Thunder called the meeting to order February 11th at 1:05 p.m. EDT. Roll call established a quorum for the meeting.

Board Attendees: Ron His Horse is Thunder, Chair; Eddie Brown; Kathy Isaacson; S. Verna Fowler; Joseph Hiller; Daniel Keating; Carl Morgan; Richard Stephens; Karen Comeau; and Edward Thomas. WHITCU Staff: Deborah Cavett, Executive Director; Anselm Davis; Mike Anspach and Tonya Ewers.

Review and Approval of August 2007 Minutes:

Having added "Eastern Daylight Time" in the title of the minutes, Karen Comeau moved to approve the August 2007 minutes. Edward Thomas seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.

WHITCU Update:

Deborah Cavett provided an update of office activities that included the following:

- Executive Order 13446 of September 28, 2007, extended Executive Order 13270 (Tribal Colleges and Universities) until September 30, 2009. The Secretary of Education extended the Charter for the same time frame.
- The operating budget for FY 2008 will be 15 percent less than the FY 2007 budget. Funds for FY 08 are low but should support another board meeting contingent upon location.
- During the fall of 2007, the Executive Director participated in meetings with the Department of Commerce, the Department of Defense, and the Nuclear Regulatory Commission that resulted in the exchange of good information. Effort on the part of both WHITCU and the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) resulted in the TCU/DHS Workshop that was held on October 11, 2007.
- Mike Anspach updated the Board on the Minneapolis technical assistance workshop and forward funding. Seventeen federal agencies provided presentations to representatives from ten TCUs. Presenters provided information on program resources available to TCUs. Workshop format provided an opportunity for TCU representatives to interact with presenters, which resulted in a better understanding of TCUs by federal participants. A number of TCUs submitted proposals to federal agencies involved in the workshop.

Since the Board's acceptance of the full forward funding action plan on August 8, 2007, work on the plan has progressed. Several members of the Board sent letters in support of the full forward funding initiative to the president, the secretaries of education and interior, and the Office of Management and Budget (OMB). However, additional funds for the forward funding effort was not included in the president's '09 budget.

Department of Education / OPE Update:

Assistant Secretary Diane Jones shared information on Title III programs.

- The Office of Postsecondary Education (OPE) and OMB see the Title III, Part-A Program as the most expensive of the minority-serving institutions programs on a per-student basis with the lowest success rate. (Title III grants to TCUs support construction costs where some of the other minority-serving institution programs do not.) This creates an artificial scenario: TCUs are seen as spending more per student because funds go to construction as oppose to student development programs. Work needs to be done to help people understand why TCU programs look comparatively expensive and look to have comparatively lower success rates. TCUs need to find a way to back out construction costs rates that artificially inflates cost per student outcome. New ways to evaluate TCU programs are needed.
- A deciding factor in the president's budget request for FY 09 is the College Cost Reduction and Access Act (CCRAA). In the FY 2008 and FY 2009 budget, CCRAA provided mandatory funding in the amount of \$30 million for the Tribally Controlled Colleges and Universities (TCCU).

Because of this increase, the 316 funds in the '09 budget were zeroed out. What shows up in the President's budget request, as a \$23 million cut, is actually a \$7 million increase.

- CCRAA also added three new program categories that have caused concern. The CCRAA Title III, Part-A Program that is authorized by the Higher Education Act will also serve predominantly black institutions, tribal-serving non-tribal, and Asian/Pacific Islander, which could be perceived as being race based. In addition, the competition for scarce Title III dollars will get more intense with the addition of the three new categories.
- Another noticeable aspect under the HEA Reauthorization is to move the TCCU program from a competitive program to a formula-funded program. The Assistant Secretary would appreciate the Board's support for a formula-funded program. Information (success stories) about what is happening on TCU campuses to change student's lives is needed when advocating for an increase during budget hearings with OMB.

The Assistant Secretary offered to facilitate a meeting with other assistant secretaries from a number of federal agencies to talk about commitments for working together.

Review of 2006 Report:

Deborah Cavett explained that the 2006 Report to the President, entitled "Pathways to Student Success," was developed from information received from agency FY 2006 Performance Reports. All 29 participating federal agencies submitted a performance report, which is a result of the positive working relationship being established with federal agencies. The FY 06 data are much better than that in prior years. The report continues five of the recommendations made in the FY 04/05 report. Progress has been made on these recommendations but more work is needed.

TCU Subcommittee Report:

Anselm Davis reported that the subcommittee on TCUs selected "remediation" as one of its priorities, which continues as the primary recommendation in the FY 06 report to the president. Two listening sessions, held in Bismarck on September 7 and in Minneapolis on November 27, 2007, focused on the challenges faced by TCUs as a result of the enrollment of under-prepared students. The listening sessions used an open forum format that allowed faculty and presidents to talk freely about developmental education programs in their respective TCU. An immediate outcome of the listening sessions was a request by TCU faculty and staff to compile a list of current federal programmatic support that could alleviate some of the economic burden for developmental education programs and services at TCUs. A template was developed and sent to a number of federal agencies requesting a listing of grants, cooperative agreements, or other programmatic activities that are available through their agencies. This compilation will be forwarded to the TCUs.

Department of Interior / BIA Update:

Assistant Secretary Carl Artman reported that two of the four Interior initiatives focus on education in Indian country: Safe Indian Communities Initiative and Improving Indian Education Initiative. The focus of Improving Indian Education (approximately \$25.5 million) is to make sure that elementary and high schools begin to achieve Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP). Seventy percent of these schools have not yet made AYP. The Assistant Secretary also reported that TCU monies will remain the same but technical colleges will experience 9.8 percent decrease.

Intergovernmental Affairs—the White House: Update

Andrew Ciafardini, Special Assistant to the President for Intergovernmental Affairs, indicated that one of his responsibilities is to ensure that the voices of Indian Country are heard at the White House. Salient points of his presentation were:

- The White House Office of Intergovernmental Affairs (WHIA) pushed the efforts to support the development of an online training course designed to provide federal employees with greater knowledge and understanding of American Indian tribes. The title of the training course is "Working Effectively with Tribal Governments" and can be found under the GoLearn Program at the U.S. Office of Personnel Management.
- Consultation with Indian tribes is not always carried out in the same manner by federal agencies. There is a need to look at best practices and to develop a government-wide baseline program

with training that agencies can use when consulting with Indian tribes. This effort is on going and will get a big push this next year by WHIA.

- During the question and answer period, Mr. Ciafardini responded positively to questions that included the Board's interest relative to convening a meeting at the White House with assistant secretaries to discuss TCU issues.

American Indian Higher Education Consortium (AIHEC) Update:

Dr. Gerald Gipp, Executive Director, indicated that AIHEC has 36 dues paying members. Ilisagvik College (Alaska) is the newest TCU. AIHEC continues to push two key initiatives: the data initiative and the Indigenous Evaluation Framework that take into account cultural factors when evaluating programs with Indian students.

Working Lunch: Using STEM for Remediation:

Tuwanda Smith, Program Manager with the Nuclear Regulatory Commission's (NRC) provided a briefing on new program activities that have been developed over the last two years. The College of Menominee Nation was the first TCU to receive an NRC award. NRC has a strong interest in TCUs and continues to move forward in search of other opportunities for TCUs.

Ethics Briefing:

Sean Dent, Office of General Counsel, briefed members of the board regarding regulations affecting advisory boards under the Anti-Lobbying Act. He also provided guidance for additional work for the Board's forward funding initiative.

Public Comments: No public comments were made.

PABTCU Actions:

Karen Comeau moved that the Board support formula funding for Title III within the Higher Education Act reauthorization. Edward Thomas seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Edward Thomas moved that the Board continue its efforts to advocate for forward funding for TCUs in the 2010 budget process. Karen Comeau seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Joseph Hiller moved that the Board advocate for forward funding in Fiscal Year '09, that a letter be drafted and vetted through the Legislative Affairs Office. Daniel Keating seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Edward Thomas moved to accept Kathy Isaacson's recommendation to place forward funding and remediation in a prominent place in the cover letter and in the executive summary of the FY 06 Report to the President. Joseph Hiller seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Edward Thomas moved that the either the executive summary or the preface be amended to set the stage better on the people coming into tribal colleges and universities under-prepared and in need of remediation services; thus, the high cost per student ratio that tribal colleges have. Kathy Isaacson seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Kathy Isaacson moved to convene a meeting of the assistant secretaries through the White House for the purpose of assisting tribal colleges and universities. Edward Thomas seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Board members agreed to meet in Bellingham, Washington, on July 15 and 16, 2008.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned February 12th at 2:21 p.m. EST.

Deborah J. Cavett,
Designated Federal Official
White House Initiative on TCUs

March 12, 2008

Ron His Horse is Thunder, Chair
President's Board of Advisors
Tribal Colleges and Universities