

Minutes of CUCAO meeting taken by Suzanne Ozment and Becky Turner  
March 8, 2017

I. The meeting of the Council of University Chief Academic Officers was called to order at 10:00 a.m.

Suzanne Ozment, Chair, extended a word of welcome and thanked Charles Nash for making arrangements for the Council to meet at the RSA Plaza building in Montgomery.

Those in attendance were invited to introduce themselves.

II. The minutes of the October 5, 2016 meeting were presented for approval. Charles Nash called attention to one error—in Paragraph X, Tonya Lee should be described as working for the Department of Labor. The minutes, with this correction, were approved unanimously.

III. Dave Johnson reported for the Nominating Committee a recommendation to elect the following individuals to a one year term of office on the Council, with the understanding that they could be elected thereafter to two-year terms.

Becky Turner from Jacksonville State University, Chair

Daniel Wims from Alabama A & M, Vice Chair

Joe Delap from Athens State University, Secretary

Christine Curtis from the University of Alabama Huntsville, Treasurer

The recommendation of the Nominating Committee was approved unanimously.

IV. Lenny Lock with the Alabama Commission on Higher Education was recognized to review policies and procedures for obtaining Commission approval of curricular additions and other changes. He invited comment on the prospect of asking institutions to provide a summary list each December of all new education certification programs approved by the State Department of Education in that calendar year. Council members had no objections.

V. Representative Terri Collins joined the meeting to discuss current legislation pertaining to higher education. According to Representative Collins, House Bill 97 would establish the Alabama Network of Statewide Workforce and Education-Related Statistics (ANSWERS) with a goal of creating a secure system housed in the Department of Labor that will provide accurate, reliable data on which to base decisions. The system will connect data on education and workforce outcomes from multiple existing sources that will make it possible to draw conclusions about defined cohorts and groups. Individual data will not be tracked.

Representative Collins informed the Council that she serves on a new commission of SREB on teacher preparation that calls for strong partnerships between universities and local schools. She indicated that she solicited information last year from Education Deans across the state to learn what is already in place and anticipates changes in how future teachers will be trained.

Representative Collins said that state budgets are essentially flat. Legislation expanding the availability of college scholarships for veterans and their dependents will add to costs that have to be covered.

The fourth topic she touched on was a bill she plans to file tomorrow (March 9, 2017) which will set state goals for educational attainment at all levels. Three year goals will call for a 50% reduction in the

number of students who graduate from high school and require remediation in college, a 25% increase in the number of students who earn a bachelor's degree, and a 10% increase in the number of students who earn a master's degree. She stated that she did not know the status of the Governor's task force on goals for higher education and said she wants the goals she has identified to complement Senator Marsh's efforts to develop a Strategic Plan for education in the state.

VI. Tim Vick, Interim Director, ACHE, provided NC-SARA Updates and led a discussion of the request from State Senator Del Marsh for a Strategic Plan for Higher Education to be developed and ready to present to the Governor. The K-12 and Postsecondary systems are developing strategic plans for their respective contexts, which when combined with the plan for higher education will create a strategic plan for education for the State of Alabama. To prepare for this effort, Tim Vick and Suzanne Ozment, independently reviewed the strategic plans of our institutions, which are on file with ACHE. They provided CUCAO members with their content analyses of the plans on file. A sub committee was formed, to be co-chaired by Kevin Whitaker and David Johnson, to begin work on the Strategic Plan for higher education. Other members include Christine Curtis, Tim Edwards, Karyn Gunn, and Daniel Wims.

VII. Charles Nash reminded us that State Department of Education Superintendent Michael Sentence has a plan to improve teacher preparation programs and K-12 learning outcomes. There is also a question regarding the future of AMSTI. The State Department of Education is meeting today and tomorrow, therefore more information about these matters may be revealed over the next several days.

VIII. The meeting was adjourned.

Submitted by Becky Turner  
6/4/2017