

Ad Hoc Long Range Planning Committee

Report by Committee Chairman Hunt on the activities of the U. T. Board of Regents' ad hoc Long Range Planning Committee at the 5/11/00 Board of Regents' meeting.

Report

1. Report on meeting with Lt. Governor Perry

Higher Education is the Lt. Governor's highest priority for the next several legislative sessions. The issue is exceptionally complex and will require full development over many years. The 2001 session's redistricting task presents a significant challenge and will require a great deal of time and effort on the part of the legislature. Cooperation and coordination between the various ongoing higher education initiatives is critical to the eventual success of a comprehensive higher education policy for Texas. Lt. Governor Perry expressed strong support for the efforts of the Regents through the work of the Long Range Planning Committee. Minutes from the Commission's last meeting will be sent to you.

2. Report on meeting with Comptroller Rylander

This meeting was to follow up on staff contacts made with the Comptroller's staff regarding their participation in our efforts to develop an economic impact analysis for human capital investments and knowledge capital investments through the creation of reliable and credible rate of return comparative tools. The Higher Education Task Force of the e-Texas Commission met on April 26, and we will provide you with a report on this meeting.

3. Report on meeting with Higher Education Coordinating Board Chair Willeford and Commissioner Brown

They have been exceptionally open in communicating with the committee and have pledged to continue that cooperation and coordination. The Planning Committee of the THECB is making significant progress in the completion of the RAND study. We will send you copies of a PowerPoint report delivered at their last meeting that should give you a good feel for the direction of the study. I want to call attention to one particular aspect of the RAND study referred to as the Delphi Exercise. The Delphi is a tool for the measurement of levels of consensus among various groups regarding a particular issue. In this case four groups were identified: community leaders, education leaders, political leaders, and business leaders. With a 69% response rate RAND reported "there was remarkably little consensus on the most pressing questions regarding higher education...". The clear message is that we have a lot of work to do in the broader community in terms of developing an under-

standing of the significant issues facing higher education in Texas, which leads directly to the next item.

4. Report on the meeting with Glenn Smith of Public Strategies, Inc.

As many of you know, an attempt was made in 1998 to develop a coordinated Higher Education agenda as a cooperative effort among the various systems and institutions in Texas. As part of this effort, PSI identified a need for a grassroots public information campaign combined with a focused legislative education effort to establish the basic groundwork for a comprehensive Higher Education initiative in the state legislature. For various reasons, this was never launched. I will be asking the committee to assess this approach and perhaps make a recommendation to launch a similar campaign in an effort to clarify and focus people on the critical issues facing higher education in Texas in a way that will build support for our long range plans and legislative initiatives. Much of the analysis and data that is and will be the work product of the committee will be very useful in defining the message of such an information initiative.

5. Deregulation issues

Committee staff is conducting an assessment of deregulation issues such as tuition, purchasing, and treatment of indirect costs associated with research funding. We will quantify the impact of each, complete a comparative analysis with peer institutions and states, and identify potential legislative initiatives. We may find, given the constraints of the next legislative session, that this is an area where we can make significant progress.

6. Future liaison activities

Pursuant to our continuing efforts to ensure close communication with various stakeholders I will be meeting with Senator Ratliff, Representative Junell, Senator Bivins, Senator West, Representative Rangel and Representative Cuellar in the near future.

7. A preliminary report from the Committee should be ready by early October.