MEMORANDUM

To: ASC Members
From: Matt Petry
Date: March 2, 2015
Subject: Notes from February 26, 2015 ASC Meeting

Members present via teleconference: Matt Petry, Larry Buchholtz, Lynnde Colling, Cheryl Heath, Carol Hoglund, Sheldon Flom, Ron Granger and Marty Kelsey. There was no Executive Council representation.

Agenda Item 1: Supplemental Budget with Amendments

- Larry indicated that Level II design funding was still being considered for the three capital construction projects forwarded by the Commission, as well as for a project added via a budget amendment by Senator Bebout – an agricultural science building at Central Wyoming College.

- Matt stated that the proposed STEM endowment for community colleges had been reduced by $5 million, but that an equal amount had been proposed for the endowment challenge account.

- Matt said that in lieu of the “recalibration” bill (i.e., HB0118, which had yet to be introduced in the Senate), both Representative Berger and Senator Landen had proposed budget amendments for consideration. Representative Berger’s amendment would require a report on performance-based allocations, recommendations on “sustainable supplemental” funding, and a review of the content of Standard Budget requests. Senator Landen’s amendment would require a review of the “funding model” by the Joint Appropriations Interim Committee, with either recommended changes to the model, or recommendations on the structure of a task force for further review.

Agenda Item 2: Other Legislative Updates (since February 20 conference call)

- Matt informed the ASC members that both the State Authorization Reciprocity Agreement bill (i.e., HB0010) and the Wyoming Investment in Nursing bill (i.e., HB0071) had already been signed into law by the Governor, and that the necessary rules drafts had been started. He also reported that the veterans’ in-state tuition bill (i.e., SF0101) was on General File in the House of Representatives. In addition, Matt reminded the group of Dr. Rose’s teleconference updates every Friday morning at 9:00, and invited them to call in if interested. Carol asked for the call-in information, and Matt said he would e-mail it that afternoon.

Agenda Item 3: Update on State Longitudinal Data System (SLDS) Development

- Matt indicated that Dynamic Campus, the consulting firm chosen for the system-wide data warehousing and reporting needs analysis, had already started visiting college campuses and contributing agencies. He also stated that the feedback from the colleges so far had all been positive. Matt again encouraged the colleges to make the most of their opportunity to contribute to the needs analysis.

- With respect to the automation of in-state transcript sharing in support of student transfers, Matt informed the ASC members that Andy Corbin had provided Dr. Leach (as the Presidents’ Council’s representative) with
three options for consideration. Dr. Leach had previously stated that once the legislative session was over, she would coordinate with the other college presidents, and then approach the University of Wyoming (UW) in an attempt to settle on an approach. Matt also notified the group that on March 16 in Casper, representatives of the CIO Council, including Andy, would meet with not only the college registrars, but also UW’s registrar, to discuss the project, and to solicit their input.

Agenda Item 4: Development of Performance Metrics to be Used in Funding Allocation

- Matt reminded the ASC members that on June 24 and 25, the Executive Council members would be meeting in Sheridan to settle on those performance funding metrics that would be modeled for consideration of full implementation starting in fiscal-year 2017. In support of that process, Matt suggested that the ASC start having a conference call every two weeks (instead of monthly) to identify viable metrics, as well as to review preliminary modeling of historical data as an indicator of future impacts. The group agreed to make this topic its primary agenda item during regularly scheduled monthly calls, as well as the only agenda item during interim calls. Matt stated that he would e-mail a proposed call schedule, and he asked the group members to forward any metrics they felt strongly about, noting that completed, weighted credit-hours, and degree and certificate completion would likely be implemented first, with possible consideration of milestone achievements later.

Agenda Item 5: Ad-Hoc Report Requests for Department of Workforce Services, Research and Planning Division

- Matt reminded the ASC members that with finalization of the report request process, Andy Corbin and his staff had been working to complete standardization of the colleges’ Hathaway Scholarship Program data-set. Colleges may be sent their portion of that data-set during the first week of March, with early- to mid-April as the target for provision of the validated data-set to the Research and Planning Division. At that point, report requests could be submitted.

Agenda Item 6: Academic-Year 2014 Course Completion

- Matt again reminded the ASC members that course completion reports were typically generated in February of each year after NCCBP statistics for the preceding academic year were released. Given the aggregation of course data in the Commission’s instance of CROA, Matt was confident that the reports could be run internally without having to provide customized programming to each of the colleges, as had been the case in the past. Matt also reminded the group that in fiscal-year 2016, the percentage of variable cost funding subject to course completion rates and volumes would increase to 20 percent (from its current level of 15 percent). And finally, Matt reminded the group that the allocation of enrollment growth appropriations for fiscal-year 2016 would be based on only course completion volumes, not rates. Marty asked when academic-year 2014 course completion rates and volumes, and their impact on the colleges’ fiscal-year 2016 budgets, would be known. Matt responded that the impacts should be known by mid- to late-March.

Next ASC Meeting / Teleconference

- March 19 Teleconference, 3:00 to 4:30