

**ALLIANCE FOR HIGH QUALITY EDUCATION
LEGISLATIVE/SYSTEMS IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE**

April 16, 2014

10:00 A.M.

MEETING SUMMARY

In attendance via phone conference call: Thomas Tucker, Beth Weber, Francis Scruci, Jeff Brown, Tim Pickana, Russ Bennett, Tony Podojil, Jim Betts and Barbara Adams.

Tony Podojil convened the meeting at 10:00 a.m.

I. HB 487

A. HB 487

1. Mid-Biennium Budget

With the recent passage of HB 487 out of the House, it now moves on to the Senate for consideration once they return from spring break. Jim and Tony updated the committee on our efforts in the House to seek amendments to HB487: removal of the minimum contracting fees for the dual-credit option; a pathway for AP/IB course teachers to obtain dual-credit licensure; and the addition of a means testing component when waiving fees under the College Credit plus provisions.

Of those three, the House agreed, over the objection of the Board of Regents recommendations, to amend the contractual language provisions to allow districts to negotiate a rate below the \$40 minimum floor. They did not consider adding the AP/IB credentialing changes or the means testing for fees. In our conversations outside of the committee hearings, we were told that OBR was opposed to the credentialing changes because they believed that would create accreditation issues for the universities. Regarding means testing, several members of the House hold very strong opinions on this issue and are not willing to consider an alternative viewpoint.

With the bill now shifting over to the Senate, we should focus our efforts on Senate Education Committee members, particularly Chairperson Lehner. Prior to the hearings in the House, we met with Senator Lehner and shared our three issues. She appeared interested in all three. We believe several other members of the Committee: Senators Gardner, Manning and Sawyer, to be approachable and receptive to our message. Senator Hughes should also be targeted even though he is not a member of the Education committee.

It was suggested that we resend the information on our proposed amendments to the committee, along with additional materials describing what is in H. B. 487 for use in meetings with legislators.

B. **SB 229**

1. **OTES**

Currently, H. B. 229 remains in the House Education Committee and has had an initial hearing. The bill has morphed into a much broader education bill with the addition of several items unrelated to OTES. From our conversations with Senators, the changes to the bill will not be well-received and, in all likelihood, will cause issues if and when the bill returns to the Senate in its present form.

With the State's present timeline for dealing with the MBR, we are not sure this bill will make it out of the House before the recess for the summer. If it does, but with the many changes to the original intent of the bill in the current version, the bill could flounder.

II. **Legislative Strategies**

A. **Mid-Biennium Review**

Alliance members should begin discussions immediately with their Senators as they begin the process of working through the MBR.

III. **Next Steps**

A. **House/Senate**

We will be scheduling meetings with members of the Senate Education Committee to share with them our positions regarding College Credit Plus. Of the two items remaining, the committee agreed that the means testing for fee waivers is the most critical because it has the potential for the greatest financial impact.

IV. **Next Meeting**

The next meeting will be **May 14** at 10:00 a.m. at BASA.

The meeting adjourned at 11:45 a.m.