

IOWA COLLEGE STUDENT AID COMMISSION

MINUTES OF RETREAT MEETING

February 2, 2012

6:00 p.m.

Iowa College Student Aid Commission

**603 East 12th Street, 5th Floor, Des Moines, Iowa 50319
Conference Room**

Members Present:

Janet Adams	Bob Donley
Crystal Ford	Herman Quirnbach
Doug Shull	Karolyn Wells
Cindy Winckler	

Members Absent:

Rob Denson	Randy Feenstra
Ron Jorgensen	Terrence Martin
Fred Moore	Kelli Todd
Roger Utman	

Staff Present:

Anthony Girardi	Deb Krueger
Julie Leeper	Karen Misjak
Ashley Wendt	

Attorney General Present:

David VanCompernelle

Guests Present:

John Parker, Iowa Student Loan

Call to Order

The Iowa College Student Aid Commission met for a retreat following the February 2, 2012 Commission Meeting. Commission Chair Adams called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m., there was not a quorum present.

Retreat

Commissioners met to discuss the Pros and Cons of a potential merger of the Iowa College Student Aid Commission with the Iowa Department of Education. The following is a list of Pros and Cons of the potential merger.

Pros	Cons
<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Potential for Cost Savings after Seeing Fiscal Note.2. Potential for Improved Services.3. Reach to Parents and Students to Provide Services.4. Enhanced Visibility for the Commission.5. Easy Access to Relevant Data from the Department of Education.6. Allow Better Analysis of Issues.7. Ease of Reaching K-12 Students to Meet their Needs.	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Potential Loss of Independent Voice.2. Decreased Visibility of the Agency that Administers Aid Programs.3. Potential Lack of Expertise on the Board of Education to Address Issues of Higher Education.4. Potential for a Super Licensing Board.5. Limited Time Frame During Legislative Session.6. High Work Load for Legislature in Considering the Proposal this Session.7. Budget Implications Would Have to be addressed by Education Appropriations.8. Potential Change in Federal Funding because of the Change in Governance Structure – May Require Return of Funding.9. No Guarantee that the Funding the Commission Currently has would be maintained – What would be the Negative Impact on the Funds that the Commission Now Has?10. Staff Information Loss when Divisions are merged.11. Differentiation of Grants and How They Serve Students.12. Loss of Autonomy of Data.13. Ability to Report Data.

Commissioner Donley said that staff should look at current federal grants that the Commission has to determine the impact if the structure of the Commission changed during the term of a multi-year grant.

Commission Chair Adams is concerned about the structure of the staff. The current staff understands the ins and outs of how the Commission works and their work is very different from that of the Iowa Department of Education. For example, if you mix the Commission's Information Technology staff with the Department of Education's Information Technology staff, what knowledge would be lost?

Commissioner Ford is concerned that the Commission's current programs will be lumped together rather than continuing as individual programs.

Commissioner Winckler questioned the loss of autonomy; specifically, the data we are able to report. She stated that she has always used the very first part of the Iowa Department of Education's Condition of Education data because of the data points for the state as a whole, how it compares regionally, and how the state compares nationally and knows there is no other place to find this information. In this year's report all that data has been eliminated. Will the Department of Education allow the Commission to continue to publish reports such as the Condition of Higher Education and other current reports and publications?

Ms. Misjak said that numerous code requirements for reporting would no longer be required or would become the responsibility of Iowa Department of Education, for example the Annual Report. Also, our outreach services reach the K-12 students because, if the Commission waits for students to graduate from high school it is too late for them to understand the importance of taking the right courses in high school, financial literacy and higher education. The data shows if students do not graduate from high school, they are more likely to be incarcerated. It is a job for everyone to reach these students. Ms. Misjak invited all Commissioners to visit the students that are in the GEAR UP Iowa Success Center.

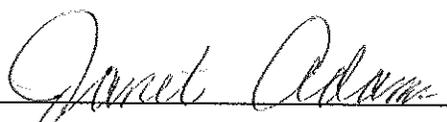
Commissioner Quirnbach agrees that the two agencies are interlocking and asks if the Commission would be more effective by merging with the Iowa Department of Education.

Commissioner Winckler said that the Department of Education does not reach K-12 students, they reach systems. Commission staff has direct links with counselors and students in the schools and have formed relationships.

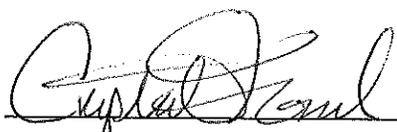
Commissioner Donley stressed that a merger between two agencies is a process and not an event. There is a limited amount of time where a lot needs to be done and this bill has not been discussed with the Education Chair in the House. Commissioner Quirnbach agreed that the timeline is very cramped and the Bill would need to be out of committee by the 24th of February, but, if given to him, he will file it as a committee bill to engage it in conversation on the House side. Commissioner Quirnbach suggested that all Commissioners sit down and study the bill closely, and suggested that two seats be added to the State Board of Education to include one representative from public higher education and one from private higher education.

Commissioner Shull said that Jason Glass was very complementary of the Commission staff and the services that the Commission provides. Ms. Misjak said that it is easy to work with Jason Glass.

Retreat adjourned at 6:45 p.m.



JANET ADAMS, CHAIR



CRYSTAL FORD, VICE CHAIR