

12/11

CHE Retreat Notes

January 10-11, 2008

The following are summary points and/or action items for the key categories of discussion at the retreat. The status of various topics is shown in italics.

- **Need-based aid**
 - This should continue as a long-term priority for CHE.
 - Proposal as presented for this year should be maintained; may consider other options for future years.

- **CHE/Higher Education Advocacy and Communications**
 - The Knowledge Economy Awareness Presentation appears to be a good idea; there were numerous suggestions for strengthening the current version. *Work on the KEA continues; Rita Allison will take responsibility for this area.*
 - An ad campaign/public service announcements should be considered. *Staff has discussed the idea with ETV and will continue to work with them and others.*
 - An E-alert process was proposed and has been implemented.
 - CHE should be the place where the "big ideas" in higher education are discussed and advanced. One way to do that is to change meetings to minimize time spent on routine and focus on discussions. *This idea will be discussed at the March meeting.*
 - *Increased communication between Commissioners and legislators is essential. Various strategies are being implemented and more are being considered.*
 - More frequent Trustees and Presidents Meetings would be valuable. *This idea is in planning and is also a topic of the HESC.*
 - CHE staff and/or Commissioners should offer to participate in institutional trustees meetings.
 - A consistent message about the importance of higher education is crucial. *Staff is working with college and university representatives on this issue.*

- **Capital Funding**
 - Lack of capital funding is a real problem for our colleges and universities; the staff should begin planning and advocacy for regular bond bills. *The staff is following up (see House testimony) and this is also an HESC topic.*

- **Pascal**
 - In order to secure recurring funding, the public and community leaders must be more aware of the importance/ effectiveness of the program. *Staff is working on this.*

- **General Issues**
 - Include students who graduate from out-of-state licensed institutions in our statistical abstract. *This is being considered.*
 - Identify students who lack a semester or two (from a degree) and motivate them to go back. CHE needs to encourage institutions to do this. *We will propose an initiative in this area.*
 - The Chair should write an op-ed to thank President Sorenson for his outstanding service both to USC and to the entire state. *This is in process.*