

MINUTES OF JOINT MEETING- WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE - FEBRUARY 7, 1968
 SENATE FINANCE
 ASSEMBLY EDUCATION COMMITTEE
 SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Chairman Floyd Lamb called the joint meeting to order at 1:40 PM in the Ways and Means Room.

Present: Glaser, Mello, Bowler, Ashworth, Webb, Young, Howard
 Jacobsen, Tyson

Absent: None

Present: Senate Finance Committee members
 Assembly Education Committee members
 Senate Education Committee members

Also present: Burnell Larson, Chairman, Governor's Council on Vocational-
 Technical Education and/or Community Colleges.

Dr. Thomas Tucker, Director of study

Eugene Voris, President, Nevada Community College at Elko

Mike Marfisi, representative of and spokesman for the

the Community College Committee

Albert Seeliger, General posture of the Board of Regents of
 the University of Nevada re the community college

Neil Humphrey, Acting President, University of Nevada

Louis Paley, Secretary-Treasurer, Nevada State Branch AFL-CIO

James Butler, Chairman, Nevada Educational Development Council

Edd Miller, Chancellor, University of Nevada

Dr. Collette, Member of School Board of Elko

Mrs. Nicholson, Legislative Chairman, League of Women Voters

Many other interested parties and the press

AB 3: An act relating to education; establishing a pilot project for
 community colleges; directing further study of their feasibility
 generally; making appropriations; and providing other matters
 properly relating thereto.

Mr. Burnell Larson gave the general background of the study, purpose and
 appointment of the Council and the Governor's charge. On September 5, 1968,
 the Governor established a State Council for the purpose of studying the
 state's need in vocational education. This Council would be responsible
 for developing a feasibility study and determining the need for further
 development with the possibility of extending this type of training
 through the 13th and 14th year of school. Also would be the possibility
 of using Elko as a pilot program and expand it to include other classes
 at other locations of the state during 1968-69. The Governor stated that
 should the findings of this Council warrant the establishment of technical
 schools and, or community colleges, or expand in the high schools, it would
 lend itself to greater utility of schools all year around. Employers were
 contacted to determine the kinds of skills needed. This would provide
 background information for the Council. Funds were authorized to be used
 for an interim study and several meetings were held. On October 11, eight
 functions of community colleges were agreed upon. At the second meeting
 the Council had an opportunity to view the program in operation, to discuss
 its possible future and also hear from the local Board of School Trustees.
 On January 4, the final meeting was held and recommendations for legislation

were developed which resulted in Assembly Bill No. 3. It became apparent that a sound value judgment on this will become necessary, particularly with reference to how a high school program would need to be affected or altered with a post high school vocational education training. The Council also recommended that the State Department of Education select a director for the studies and enter a contract with him.

Dr. Thomas Tucker spoke on the method utilized in the study, the rationale of recommendations and the scope of the educational program. He said there are 55 courses offered, listed a variety of people employed to instruct, and said the money had been gained through fees for the courses and donations. The people of Elko raised \$45,000 with 500 people making contributions. Mr. Tucker also spoke of the 2 days the Council spent observing the Elko program, while keeping in mind a consideration of the functions of a community college. Every state in the United States has developed a community or junior college covering many activities. The Council agreed upon a definition of a community college. Dr. Tucker said we need an educational agency in this state that has an open door policy. There is nothing in this state between high school and the University. We are the only state that does not have this intermediate educational unit. The programs we now have are just not structured to serve the purposes of a junior or community college. More technical training is necessary. Many of the people involved are in the lower socio-economic levels and are unemployed; therefore, they cannot pay fees for courses to help themselves. The cost of not educating is more than the cost of educating - example: Job Corps. We have recommended that the Elko Community College be a pilot project for 1968-69, needed to do in-depth studies to determine actual type of curriculum that would be best for the people of Elko as well as the surrounding communities. The Governor's instructions were for a state-wide feasibility study. The public school districts try to fill the gap by developing adult education courses. This is not sufficient because the people who operate these programs don't feel they are in the main stream of education. This is a self-supporting type of education based upon fees. Therefore, it eliminates a large section of our population. In our smaller counties we feel strongly that whatever we did in the way of educational opportunity, it would not equate that of the major counties such as Clark. The University also comes under pressure to offer courses that are less than University capability courses and unless we develop this type of opportunity we are forcing them on the high schools and the University. Clark and Washoe counties have the greatest need for a community college inasmuch as they have more unemployment. People of this state have underwritten costs of education from kindergarten through the 12th grade and even 7 years beyond high school. However, the Universities are serving only a very small part of our population. Out of the 50% of our high school graduates attending the University, only 50% ever finish. One of the reasons for this is that there is no where else for the high school graduate to go. If we had this intermediary vocational education, it would be another choice open for the student. What do the drop out students do? In a community college he can switch from one line of concentration to another. In 1966 out of 4600 Nevada high school graduates, 2300 dropped out of the University. We have an obligation to provide vocational training for these students just as we have provided University training for a smaller number.

Dr. Tucker spoke of attracting industry and gave Arkansas as an example of doing so with the development of vocational education. It's better to spend money for education than for welfare. He foresees the time when an able-bodied welfare recipient must go to school to learn a trade and also the possibility of it being tied in with unemployment compensation checks. Unemployment exists when skills are obsolete in season. This could be an incentive to develop 2 types of skills. Dr. Tucker said that he has always encouraged the idea of dual opportunity for employment.

Recommendations of the Governors Council on Community Colleges: By legislative act the Board of Trustees of Nevada Community College be comprised of members of the Elko County School Trustees. Thus, it does not conceive of the necessity of duplicating boards even if colleges were established in other counties. Once the college becomes larger and can justify a separate board and organization, we can break them loose. It should be cloaked by law with sufficient authority to serve the state and be consistent with present state statutes. The Board of Trustees of Nevada Community College should develop standards of policy. They should establish an advisory committee of citizens of Nevada to advise the Board. It should employ a Director full time to operate the college; also, equipment and a secretary. With assistance from the State Department of Education in instituting the cluster approach in the 11th and 12th grade of high school, a high degree of continuity would be maintained. This cluster approach to vocational training phases in in the Junior level of high school and begins acquainting the student with what is offered in the technical school. The student is often not mature enough and the school doesn't have him long enough to sell him a saleable skill. With this cluster arrangement, his interest would be held for a couple of years. We graduate only 70% of our high school freshmen. 30% are therefore without a high school education. We are requesting \$50,000 for the college and a \$29,000 additional allocation to the State Division of Education for purchase of equipment and materials for the cluster arrangement. As justification for the college in Elko, Dr. Tucker said we would be obligated to this for any community which could raise \$50,000 and have enough interest and initiative to do all they have for themselves.

Mr. Larson talked of the equipment and material needed to be purchased. They also recommended that the name be Elko Community College rather than Nevada Community College. \$17,500 is the proposal for continuing a state-wide feasibility study and developing a master plan for participation in Nevada such as area community colleges and vocational technical centers in the state; also, plans for phasing vocational education into secondary schools to continue into the 13th and 14th year of education.

Copies of "A Report The Nevada Community College In Elko By The Governor's State Council on Community Colleges and/or Vocational-Technical Centers" were distributed to members of the committees.

A 5 minute recess was declared.

Senator Monroe asked if, when investigating the school in Elko, they found the school was hampered by a lack of statutory acceptance. Dr. Tucker said that certain facilities belonging to the public school

system were adequate. In other areas, however, in terms of shop and modern equipment, we were handicapped. What could happen - in the initial stages of development, would be an improvement and increase of the present high school's facilities.

In answer to Senator Monroe's question of the transfer of credits, Mr. Tucker said the reason we were hampered in attracting high school graduates was the late date we started the college. There is no legal provision for the transferring of credits.

Question: Does the college operate from 4 PM on in the high school building? Dr. Tucker said that it does, but it's possible to have day student - depending on what could be worked out. Also, vacant structures in Elko itself could be employed.

Mr. Getto asked if the adult education courses can be transferred for college credit. Dr. Tucker said, yes, they could, under the University extension which operates in a number of communities.

Senator Slattery: Do you envision this and what would the future costs be to the taxpayers of continuing for the next 5 years and starting colleges in different parts of the state? In 5 years it could run into millions as did SNU. Dr. Tucker said it could. The statewide feasibility study concerns just 5 vocational technical centers in the state - in Las Vegas and Washoe County and possibly 3 spaced in the 15 counties. At the end of a year long study we would have estimates on that.

Senator Brown asked for figures on other community colleges or technical schools as to how many go on to college, etc., and how many are of ages 17 to 21, since he feels this is an extension of the adult education program. Dr. Tucker: In Florida, there are some 40 community colleges and Junior colleges. 30% of the Junior college students go on to higher education. He estimated that as high as 20% geared to vocational training go on to higher education. Also, he estimated there would be from 250 to 400 by next year in the 17 to 21 age bracket here. The figures will come out shortly for the present enrollment.

In answer to question of Senator Gibson on the objectives of the pilot program, Dr. Tucker said it would determine the feasibility of phasing in the cluster approach to vocational education training. A number of students could be phased in earlier rather than the emphasis on college preparatory courses. It would determine the administration organization of it. If after a year the pilot program is successful we would begin renovating the high school curriculum throughout the state in areas of vocational education. Mr. Larson would be responsible for developing a master plan and to inventory each school.

Senator Gibson asked why this is considered better than what they are doing in White Pine and Churchill Counties. Mr. Larson said that traditionally and historically all over the United States, high schools have not accomplished the task of providing training for job entry. The main reason is that so much of an academic program gets in the way of vocational training; we cannot devote enough time for vocational training in the high school. For terminal training for job entry we need more time. So, the cluster program would be a general approach to curriculum which would lead into such areas of vocational training. A 2 year continuing educational program would complete this training for jobs.

Senator Hug commented on the finance aspect. He said that usually a petition is presented to the State Board from the area wanting to start a college and stating the means by which they could support it, including the broadness of their local tax base, tuition proposals and possible state support. Elko has made the initial step in getting money to start with. Is it the intent of the people of Elko to keep supporting it, partially at least? Mr. Larson said there is no reluctance in Elko to do this.

Senator Farr said that the master plan, the pilot program and the feasibility study all look related, and questioned if one part was tied to the other. ..Mr. Larson said they are related..... Senator Farr asked if we support the feasibility study and don't provide funds for the pilot project, will the people in Elko continue their project?Mr. Larsen said he didn't think they could without the \$50,000 grant. Senator Farr asked if we need the pilot program to make the study. Mr. Larsen said the pilot project promoted in Elko is something specific and would make our study much more accurate.

Mr. Eugene Voris spoke in support of the community college concept. He gave his background and connection with the schools in Colorado and the establishment of a Junior college in Western Colorado. He is now taking graduate studies himself to qualify in the 2 year college field. The 2 year college is based around flexibility and the individual student rather than establishing the curriculum and then making the student conform. He spoke of the worth of individuality and the need for this type of approach in education. Mr. Voris said that the Elko college was started too late to attract many of the full time college age students the first year. He went on to explain the purposes of the Elko college when formed: working in three areas (1)beginnings of 5 basic 2 year vocational technical programs (2) beginnings of a 2 year general education offering going along with technical education and geared to the post secondary level and (3) working in the area of adult education. In all three types of courses we have all of the various kinds of community college students. The courses tied into post high school programs provides a means of entry into other on-going programs. We are also doing some community service work, although very little at this time. The example was given of upgrading the service station with better prepared attendants - working with the present station in Elko. So far we have 430 people in the fall quarter. Twelve are regular full time students, college age, and the rest accounts for all ages and ranges of interests. We have 520 people so far and expect around 600 for this quarter when the registration ends next week. We are beginning to attract the more intense student - more serious. He spoke of the course in Juvenile Law being offered by the University extension. With legislative legitimacy, we would expect to move toward the full time college age student. He concluded his presentation by inviting anyone interested to visit the school and talk with those involved.

Senator Gibson asked for a breakdown on the 520 students, as to how many are taking more than one course, etc. Mr. Voris said he would supply materials on enrollments and gave the following figures: 143 - business and office; 78 agriculture and industry; 33 engineering aids and technical; 24 economics; 36 law enforcement; 124 general education; and 69 adult education. The staff is comprised of qualified members of the community and from the public school system and industry. The Dean and Mr. Voris are the only full time members of the staff.

In answer to Mr. Ashworth's question of students coming into Elko, Mr. Voris replied that he would estimate half of the first year's students are from outside the immediate community - from Winnimuca, Eureka and on past Wells.

Mr. Getto asked how many students were previously enrolled in the adult education offered previous to the opening of the college. Mr. Tucker said they have never looked at this individually to determine this. Mr. Glaser said he had documents on this indicating about 20%.

Senator Gibson asked if the transferring of credits was a legislative matter Mr. Larson replied that he does not consider it as such. It would come under the purview of the public school system and indicated vocational education college transfer programs are most necessary.

Mr. Voris, in answer to question, said that 80% of the fall quarter students finished their courses. 50% of the new quarter was with the fall quarter. He also supported the idea of the transfer program stating how necessary it was to most people. He gave an example of a youngster not making it in the University and rather than having the feeling of dropping out could just switch his program to the technical education. He would not then have the stigma of failing in college. However, this is tied in with the guidance concept of the whole program.

Mr. Getto asked about figures on how much of a load would be relieved in the University by their going to the community college. ... Dr. Tucker said this would be included in the state-wide study. However, he did comment on the greater holding power of the University with the students weeded out beforehand rather than in their Freshman year.

Senator Brown mentioned the value of the vocational school in Clark County. He spoke of the possibility under the Nevada Plan in secondary education of enlarging the adult education program which would relieve some of the existing tension. He wondered if this would not be better than starting on some new program creating an entire new level of education. Mr. Larson said he would agree that this may be a solution in Clark County. In any kind of state-wide planning we need to build in some alternatives and flexibility. He would be the last to say that every community should encompass a community college program. However, we should establish what a community college should be and identify kinds of programs carried on. Then the school districts could say which plan they would want to use. When you create an index of instruction, etc. you add in the dollars and cents. One advantage that Clark County might have in using the community college concept is to identify with a college program and bring in those students who would have to go some place else for the college transfer program. Once you get them in, they may fall out but the community college could pick those students up and guide them into some other vocational education program.

Senator Brown commented that for what they can pay, they want to get the best type of program, not rush into something different from what is presently working for them. ... Mr. Larson said their idea is to go slowly and take a long range view. At this point they would not be willing to say what structure a community college should take.

Mr. Mike Marfisi spoke on the community effort and background for the beginning of the college in Elko and possibilities for its growth and the need for its services, on behalf of the people of Elko. He spoke of the variety of types of people vitally interested in this college such as physicians, insurance men, engineers, etc. The idea of the college started with the belief that Elko should strive to bring industry into the area, and the belief that this was progress. They studied the question of why industry was not coming into the area, the kinds of positions not being filled because of the lack of training and so studied the community college system - visited one in Oregon. They determined that industry does follow areas that have widespread educational facilities such as in Clark and Washoe Counties. The direct benefit the community college system offers is filling the gap in education. These things were taken to the people in Elko and in one month's time they had raised \$45,000 in contributions. We know that on the high school level there is inadequate guidance and counselling services to find out what is best for the individual student. This will fill the gap by providing terminal education for those not going on to the University. It also provides low cost education. He spoke of the importance of "dove-tailing" our program with kindergarten through 12th grade and the University. Right now Elko is not actually a community college in fact. We just wanted to point out what is needed and what can be done.

Mr. Albert Seeliger said the Board of Regents has offered their full cooperation to the citizens of Elko County. The Extension Division of the University can tie in very easily with the community college program. With areas of responsibility clearly defined, we do not see any problems developing. It is an excellent opportunity to establish greater use of our existing facilities and provide better service to our citizens. Elko is a stable community and a fine location for a pilot project. At the end of the pilot project run, you will have the opportunity to review the whole program. The posture of the Board of Regents is one of cooperation with the Elko Community College project.

Mr. Neil Humphrey spoke on the college transfer credit program as it relates to the University of Nevada. He said the University has offered cooperation whereby it contracts ^{with} the Nevada Community College Board or with the Elko School Board for University general extension courses as part of the program and would be taught by employees and accredited by the University. Mr. Voris should issue a letter of anticipation which has been agreed upon by the University and would serve as a guide for development of the contract.

Mr. Louis Paley gave labor's attitude toward the community college concept, particularly as to its possible role in filling the need for trained workers. He spoke very highly of the community college in Elko. He stressed that Nevada is the only state without a Junior or community college. He commented that money was not really the issue. Out of 800 indentured apprentices, only 40 have ever gone to college. This is not good as far as we are concerned. The employer looks first to the level of education achieved by the applicant for a job. In view of the specialist movement, we need this extra vocational education. Labor will stand with you in taxation for this and we urge support of AB 3. We highly endorse the Junior and community colleges.

Mr. James Butler gave the posture of the NED Council concerning the community college in Elko. They had received the report of the Council per instructions of the Governor. Since the report came out on the final recommendations after their meeting, they did not have time to go back to have specific positions made. However, we feel we do have a representative position. Many questions brought up today were considered in detail and as a result the Council voted unanimously to support this legislation. We feel there is a demand and need for this number of students in Nevada who are not being provided with the education they need. The vocational education area has not received the attention it deserves. We want a soundly based study. We want to have an opportunity to look at something when the study is complete that will have merit and offers alternatives, etc. We have sent a letter to the Governor communicating our position the same as we have given it to you.

Senator Gibson asked if the objective of the group is to establish a 4 year college. ... Mr. Marfisi stressed that the intent is strictly confined to a 2 year school.

Mr. Young brought up the subject of the availability of federal funds for these colleges. Mr. Voris said there are funds available. The amount varies by state in terms of eligibility according to the number of colleges in the state, but could be as high as 20%.

AB 13: Provides for establishment of community colleges

Mr. Homer spoke on this bill which he had introduced. It differs from the Elko Community College concept in that the college would operate in an independent district and not be tied to the present school system. It would be locally controlled. He went over the various provisions of his bill, and cited some advantages of local control - free range of operations - and would have its own elected board. He presented this as an alternative for the feasibility study. He said Kit Carson College could be considered the instrument for the independent community college concept just as Elko Community College is serving for its type. The bill asks for \$25,000 with the rest locally financed. At the end of this year the state would have a comparison of which way to go.

Dr. Collette, a member of the Elko County School Board, spoke on behalf of the School Board in support of this concept of the Elko Community College, especially the cluster idea and the desirability of the vocational and technical training. Elko has known this type of training has been inadequate. The crux of the situation is that the public high schools cannot do the type of job we expect them to do. We have been doing the best job that we can, but our graduates are not ready for employment unless they go on to the University. He also stressed the importance of guidance of the type which would follow through on the individual and the ability to switch students back and forth - the flexibility aspect is most important.

Mrs. Nicholson, Legislative Chairman, spoke on behalf of the League of Women Voters. This subject has been studied in depth by the League and they express support of the pilot project only. They do not feel ready at this time to support continuing education altogether. She elaborated on the need for jobs and the need of jobs to be filled. The League is not in a position to support the concept of community colleges as the way to go, but do feel the idea has a great deal of merit and should be evaluated through the pilot community college. We should be able to

assess our needs more adequately if we undertake this study.

Mr. Glaser spoke in support of the Elko Community College as a student himself, enrolled in this college. He spoke in clarification of the intent of Elko and of the Legislators from Elko County. SNU started in the same small way and grew into a 4 year college. This legislative body has also recognized the need for vocational and technical training for the past several years - the boys' and girls' school, the Stead area project, the prison programs, and also the appropriation originated by Ways and Means Committee of 1 quarter of a million dollars to be used with matching monies in vocational and technical areas given to the Department of Education to use where the need was the greatest. However, all this show our recognition of the need, but it is a patchwork type of thing. He spoke of the future greater population, especially in view of the Southern Nevada Water Project. We are going to have to face up to this problem and adjust our tax monies accordingly. We have to grow into this intermediary training level.

Senator Lamb commended Elko for their initiative and spoke of our obligation to rural areas as well as the larger ones.

Meeting adjourned at 4PM.