

NORTH DAKOTA LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

Minutes of the

TRIBAL AND STATE RELATIONS COMMITTEE

Monday, October 20, 2008
Prairie Room, State Capitol
Bismarck, North Dakota

Representative Merle Boucher, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m.

Members present: Representatives Merle Boucher, Daryl Lies; Senators Stanley W. Lyson, Tim Mathern

Members absent: Representative Duane L. DeKrey; Senator Dave Oehlke

Native American Tribal Citizens' Task Force member present: Cheryl Kulas, Executive Director, Indian Affairs Commission

Native American Tribal Citizens' Task Force members absent: David Brien, Chairman, Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa Indians; Avis Little Eagle, Vice Chairman, Standing Rock Sioux Tribe; Myra Pearson, Chairman, Spirit Lake Nation; Michael Selvage, Sr., Chairman, Sisseton-Wahpeton Oyate; Marcus D. Wells, Jr., Chairman, Three Affiliated Tribes - Mandan, Hidatsa, and Arikara Nation

Others present: Dr. Michel Hillman, North Dakota University System, Bismarck

Bull Bennett, North Dakota Association of Tribal Colleges, Mandan

David Thompson, Prairie Public Radio, Bismarck

Dr. Cynthia Lindquist Mala, President, Cankdeska Cikana College, Fort Totten

Dr. Laurel Vermillion, President, Sitting Bull College, Fort Yates

It was moved by Senator Lyson, seconded by Senator Mathern, and carried on a voice vote that the minutes of the October 2, 2008, meeting be approved as distributed.

INDIAN EDUCATION ISSUES

At the request of Chairman Boucher, committee counsel reviewed a bill draft [\[90205.0200\]](#) relating to financial assistance to tribal colleges.

In response to a question from Senator Mathern, Dr. Michel Hillman, Vice Chancellor for Academic and Student Affairs, North Dakota University System, said the reimbursement figure of \$5,304 used in North Dakota Century Code (NDCC) Section 15-70-04 mirrors the federal reimbursement rate for tribal colleges.

Chairman Boucher recognized Dr. Cynthia Lindquist Mala, President, Cankdeska Cikana Community College, Fort Totten. Dr. Lindquist Mala said some of the college presidents were concerned with inserting a specific monetary amount in the

formula to determine grants to tribal colleges. She said the federal reimbursement amount is fluid and the state grant should match the federal grant.

In response to a question from Senator Mathern, Dr. Hillman said the reimbursement amount is a policy question for the Legislative Assembly. However, he said, the amount is critical because if the reimbursement amount is higher than funds provided to member institutions then the Board of Higher Education may not be able to support the bill draft, especially in light of measure Nos. 1 and 2.

In response to Dr. Hillman's comments, Senator Mathern said he supports the bill draft and would like to see it move forward and if the formula needs to be revised, it can be done during the upcoming legislative session.

Chairman Boucher recognized Senator Lyson. Senator Lyson agreed with Senator Mathern that if the Legislative Assembly receives additional information and the formula needs to be revised, it can be done during the upcoming legislative session.

It was moved by Senator Mathern, seconded by Senator Lyson, and carried on a roll call vote that the bill draft relating to financial assistance to tribal colleges be approved and recommended to the Legislative Council. Representatives Boucher and Lies and Senators Lyson and Mathern voted "aye." No negative votes were cast.

It was moved by Senator Lyson, seconded by Senator Mathern, and carried on a roll call vote that the chairman and the staff of the Legislative Council be requested to prepare a report and the bill drafts recommended by the committee and to present the report and recommended bill drafts to the Legislative Council. Representatives Boucher and Lies and Senators Lyson and Mathern voted "aye." No negative votes were cast.

No further business appearing, Chairman Boucher adjourned the meeting at 9:10 a.m.

Jeffrey N. Nelson
Committee Counsel