

DISCUSSION/ACTION
November 2, 2018

HIGHER EDUCATIONAL AIDS BOARD

BOARD REPORT #19-16

EX-OFFICIO HEAB POSITION FOR THE TRIBAL SECTOR

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Appointing Ex-Officio members to the HEAB Board
For the Tribal College Sector

The Issue

Membership on the HEAB Board is prescribed by s. 15.67, which stipulates that the HEAB Board shall consist of members appointed by the Governor to three-year terms. s. 15.07 (1) (a) 1 states that members of the HEAB Board are to be appointed by the Governor without Senate confirmation.

- s. 15.67 provides that HEAB Board membership shall be
- The state superintendent of public instruction, and
 - The following (seven) members appointed for 3-year terms:
 - One member of the board of regents of the University of Wisconsin System, and one financial aids administrator within the University of Wisconsin System
 - One member of the technical college system board, and one financial aids administrator within the technical college system
 - One member of a board of trustees of an independent college or university in Wisconsin, and one financial aids administrator of a private nonprofit institution of higher education located in Wisconsin
 - One member to represent the general public
 - Also, the following (three) members appointed for 2-year terms:
 - One undergraduate student enrolled at least half-time and in good academic standing at an institution within the University of Wisconsin System who is at least 18 years old and a resident of this state
 - One student enrolled at least half-time and in good academic standing at a technical college who is at least 18 years old and a resident of this state
 - One undergraduate student enrolled at least half-time and in good academic standing at a private, nonprofit institution of higher education located in this state who is at least 18 years old and a resident of this state.

State statutes do not provide for HEAB Board membership for any representative from the Tribal College sector.

In July 2005, the HEAB Board approved Board Report #06-03, which recommended that the Board create one ex-officio board position for the Tribal Sector. The Board Report stated that the Tribal Colleges would choose their representative, and that the Tribal Sector member would be a non-voting member of the Board.

Dr. Verna Fowler, President of the College of the Menominee Nation (CMN) was selected for the position. She served until her retirement as CMN President in 2016.

During 2016 and 2017 the two Tribal Colleges in the state (CMN and the Lac Courte Oreilles Ojibwa Community College or LCO-OCC) each transitioned to new leadership, with both schools naming new Presidents in Spring 2018.

As noted, the HEAB Board does have the authority to create non-voting ex-officio membership(s) on its own board by action of the board. The HEAB Board created one ex-officio Tribal Sector position on its board when it approved the recommendation in Board Paper #06-03, in July 2005.

During discussions of the issue of Tribal Sector representation on the board in July 2018, the HEAB Board reached a consensus that it would be desirable for the board to have two Tribal Sector members, one from each of the state's two Tribal Colleges. These members would be ex-officio, non-voting members.

In order for the Tribal Sector to have a voting membership on the HEAB Board, action by the Legislature would be necessary. Such action is not expected before sometime in 2019, since the 2017-18 session of the Legislature has adjourned.

Recommendations

1. It is recommended that the Higher Educational Aids Board create one new ex-officio position on its board for a representative from the Tribal Sector.
2. Further, it is recommended that the Higher Educational Aids Board appoint ex-officio members to the two ex-officio positions that would then exist on the HEAB Board for representatives from the Tribal Sector.
3. It is recommended that the Higher Educational Aids Board select and appoint to these positions the current President of the College of the Menominee Nation, and the current President of the Lac Courte Oreilles Ojibwa Community College.