



Chair Jacobson reports the following:

The ACPE meeting was held at their office in Anchorage (Dimond Mall) on July 22, 2014.

Jerry Covey, ACPE commissioner and Former Alaska Commissioner of Education and Early Development provided an update on Alaska's Small Rural High Schools and Residential High Schools.

Dr. Dana Thomas, VP of Academic Affairs & Research, UA Statewide provided a briefing on the UA Shaping Alaska's Future Initiative.

Diane Barrans, ACPE director, provided a Legislative Recap and Next steps report. ACPE's FY15 budget was funded in HB 266 at the Governor's requested appropriation level ensuring stable funding for the organization.

-Program legislation – Re: SB 195 – Sponsored by Senator Anna Fairclough and co-sponsored by Senator Gary Stevens, relating to the Commission, Corporation, loan and grant programs and to postsecondary educational institutions did pass the House with all members present in unanimous support of the bill. One amendment occurred in House Finance where it was amended to increase the annual loan limit for career ed programs to \$10,000. Neither the sponsor nor Ms Barrans objected as proposed by Finance Committee Co-Chair Stoltze. It was accepted by the committee with no objection.

-HB278, the Governor's Education Opportunity Act, enacts numerous changes to the law's regulating or impacting K-12 schools on an extremely broad array of areas which include school construction, funding and tax credits, charter, residential schools and correspondence study; special programs; and dual credit and high school exit exams.

-ACPE will be working with EED leadership to understand potential implications of the new high school exit exam requirements under which high school students may take any of the SAT, ACT or WorkKeys exams.

Compliance Activities report:

-Information was provided indicating that there are 623 exempt institutions or providers offering postsecondary education or training in Alaska. (I believe it was a little over 100 when I first became a commissioner nearly eight years ago). 483 of those are exempted due to offering distance or online instruction without a physical presence in the state,

-Staff has been providing technical support to the Program Director of the Alaska campus of the Seattle University School of Law relative to authorization to operate in Alaska. The School will be opening a satellite campus in Anchorage, scheduled for summer 2015.

-Staff investigated a formal complaint against Charter College relative to a discontinued program. Charter College complied with staff's recommendation of refunding the complainant's program expenses, and the investigation was closed.

-On May 13, 2014, ACPE was informed that the WICHE State Authorization Reciprocity Agreement (W-SARA) Steering Committee approved Alaska's request for membership in W-SARA, joining four other member states in the WICHE region. An informational webinar is scheduled for late July, to be delivered to institutions expressing interest in W-SARA participation.

-ACPE proposes to notice for public comment regulations changes in Title 20 Chapters 15, 16, 17 of the AK Administrative code dealing with the regulation of Alaska state financial aid programs and postsecondary institutions, including areas such as revising loan deferment eligibility.