



## OUS Provosts' Council

### Meeting Action Notes

March 5, 2009

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Members: Sabah Randhawa, OSU, Co-Chair  
Susan Weeks, OUS, Co-Chair  
Jim Bean and Russ Tomlin, UO  
Brad Burda, OIT  
Lesley Hallick, OHSU  
Michael Jaeger, EOU  
Jim Klein, SOU  
Roy Koch, PSU  
Kent Neely, WOU

IFS: Jeff Johnson, EOU

Staff: Helen Stampe, OUS

Guests: George Pernsteiner, OUS  
Rosemary Powers, OSBHE  
Joe Holliday, OUS  
Ruth Keele, OUS  
Bob Turner, OUS

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#### 1. Chancellor's Report

Chancellor George Pernsteiner outlined some of the OUS budget cuts and indicated that he will be reporting this information to the Board on the following day: over \$9 million was taken in December 2008, and another \$37 million was assigned to OUS in February 2009 to be taken immediately. Out of the February cuts, \$6.7 million will be taken in public service, academic support, and institutional support; with \$30.3 million taken from fund balances in order to preserve student access and success, keep instruction intact to the extent possible, and sustain the record levels of enrollment that have greatly expanded student access to higher education in Oregon. He noted that more reductions in state funding in the current biennium are possible and that further actions may be required during this fiscal year. George also talked about the OUS Voluntary Work Reduction program being developed. This program would permit unclassified employees to voluntarily reduce their FTE, with the impact of reducing their pay through the rest of the current fiscal year.

George summarized a number of actions that will begin to be implemented in the next few months through the next few years in order to find additional cost savings and efficiencies to meet the current economic challenges and reduced funding from the state. These actions include (a) a common acceptance system that is Systemwide, rather than campus specific; (b) shared services and other types of systems across campuses; (c) changes in rules involving low enrollment courses; (d) a more differentiated tuition system, based on the university's mission and market; (e) a plan to change from a

system of quarters to semesters to be aligned between OUS universities and Oregon community colleges (SB 442); and (f) a look at different class and course structures. Discussion followed.

## 2. Learning Outcomes and Assessment Update

Ruth Keele reported on several documents pertaining to learning outcomes and assessment: 2009 campus performance reporting guidelines; campus contacts; defining and managing the intersections (OUS and AAC&U programs); and faculty engagement on campuses. She indicated that the institutions would report to the Board on campus-level performance against the approved array of performance measures on May 8, 2009. Institutions are asked to comment on the performance trends, relevant campus initiatives, significant accomplishments, and factors of influence for each of the performance measures and/or goal areas. It was noted that the report templates provided to the campuses are due back to the Chancellor's Office by April 3, 2009. Discussion followed.

## 3. NWCCU Accreditation and Standards Changes

Sabah Randhawa reported on the potential changes in the Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities (NWCCU) accreditation and standards. Changes include a greater focus on institutional mission, goals and metrics; seven year cycle, rather than ten years; two reports and two visits with a focus on a subset of standards each time, etc.

## 4. Updates

- Academic Programs: As discussed in the Provosts Only meeting earlier, it was determined that new program proposals could still be submitted to the Provosts' Council for review and approval. However, approved programs will be delayed in going forward to the Board for approval until the budget situation becomes clearer (with the exception of OIT's Civil Engineering program as indicated below). A set date has not been determined.
- Minimum Class Size Issue: The Chancellor asked that the Provosts' Council bring a proposed policy regarding minimum class size to the Board for discussion in April. Discussion was held regarding the definition of "organized courses" to be addressed by the policy. A task group was formed – consisting of Provosts Koch, Jaeger, and Burda and Bob Kieran from the Chancellor's Office – to develop a consistent definition and common reporting structure across OUS universities.

## 5. New Program Proposals

- **PSU – Ph.D. in Applied Physics**  
Action: It was approved to move the Applied Physics program forward for external review. Provost Koch will work with the co-chairs to identify the external reviewers for the program. Notification to the Office of Degree Authorization will be completed after the external review report.
- **OIT – External Review on M.S. in Civil Engineering**  
Action: It was approved to accept the external review report and move the Civil Engineering program forward for Board approval at the April 2009 meeting. Material for Board docket and notification to the Office of Degree Authorization will need to be submitted.

- **OIT – M.S. in Renewable Energy Engineering**

Action: It was decided to hold the Renewable Energy Engineering program for further review until Provost Burda has a chance to review this proposal with faculty from other campuses and receive feedback. It was noted that Oregon State University had responded in writing and it was passed on to Provost Burda at the meeting.

## 6. Name Changes

It was noted that the following campuses have program name changes:

**OSU**: M.A./M.S./Ph.D. in Economics to M.A./M.S./Ph.D. in Applied Economics

**EOU**: Master of Teacher Education to Master of Arts in Teaching

## 7. Next Meeting

The next meeting of the OUS Provosts' Council will be held on April 2, 2009 at Western Oregon University in Monmouth.