



Oregon
University
System

OREGON STATE BOARD OF HIGHER EDUCATION
OUS RESEARCH COUNCIL

MEETING MINUTES

University Place, Pyramid Lake Room
Thursday, May 1, 2008, 10:00 am – 12 noon

1) Call to Order/Roll Call

Chair Rich Linton called the meeting to order at 10:10 am. The following members were present: Kirby Dyess John Cassady, Dan Dorsa, Wayne Embree, Bill Feyerherm.

Absent: Gary Tallman, Ray Werner, Fred Ziari

Staff: Maggie Bice

Others: George Pernsteiner, OUS; Mark Abbott, OSU (telephone); Gail Achterman, OSU; Dana Bostrom, PSU; Michael Campana, OSU; Don Gerhart, UO (telephone); Arundee Pradhan, OHSU; James Sager, Governor's Office; Bruce Schafer, OUS; Charles Triplett, OUS; Courtney Warner, Oregon InC

2) Discussion

a) Policy Option Package Updates

Sustainability Initiative

Climate Change: Mark Abbot began by speaking about the Climate Research Institute.

- Searching for new director.
- Have received nine applications.
- Hope to have someone in place by fall.
- Need more financial support for Institute and funding for new scientists.
- Looking for more base support, seed money for new kinds of science.

Water Vision: Mark Campana spoke about the Oregon Water Institute

- There is significant water work going on at institutions and would like to see institution fund match.
- Asking for an additional \$400,000.
- Feyerherm mentioned the need to be specific about what is wanted; e.g., two columns: one for institution support and one for external support.

Action: Need a one page paper to address concerns within the next couple of weeks

Oregon Transportation Research Education Consortium: Bill Feyerherm gave a report on OTREC.

- Ongoing, federal earmark.
- Released 45 projects.
- Policy Option Package helps to address finding enough money to match and help leverage federal dollars.
- POP needs to be intentional and restricted to areas that researchers can find matching funds.
- Need to create a synergy with other projects.
- One-to-one match requirement.

Natural Resources: Gail Achterman reported on the Institute for Natural Resources.

- INR develops readily available natural resources management for the state, acts like a mini-research council.
- Regarding POP, three of the four requests are non-recurring, one is ongoing:
 - ▶ Digital Natural Resources Library – information available to citizens on the web; need \$500,000 of flexible funding.
 - ▶ 2010 State of the Environment Report – Progress Board views this as a critical piece; \$250,000 requested.
 - ▶ Oregon Natural Heritage Center – primarily funded by federal funds but cutbacks have hurt; this requires recurring funds.

Achterman mentioned the need to develop a research agenda to work with faculty on ecosystems. She explained that core support is important.

Embree stated that PCC is missing from the discussion and needs to be engaged, which Pernsteiner thought a good idea.

Linton indicated that synergy and integration were needed among the parts of the POP sustainability proposal.

Engineering and Technology Industry Council POP

Bruce Schafer gave a brief update on the ETIC POP. The POP includes investments in new research faculty and supporting improvements in laboratory facilities.

- POP divided into three levels totaling \$68M in state funds and forecasted private support of \$78M.
- Private support has grown faster than legislative support.
- Makes investments in engineering, computer science, and material science.

- Also will invest in growing OIT's applied research capacity.
- Dyess mentioned the growth in engineering graduates was unique; Schafer replied that engineering graduates growing more slowly.
- Linton would like information in ETIC POP to be concise and align with Research Council POP.
- Pernsteiner mentioned the connections between ETIC and Research Council and stated that without ETIC funding enrollment and faculty funding could not be sustained. He went on to say that it is important to characterize work as interconnected and building connections with economic development is important.
- Cassady would like to see cross referencing and alignment with Graduate Education POP.
- Dyess asked about putting the two together but Pernsteiner thought that might run the risk of driving them back into disciplines.
- Embree asked about the number of seats in engineering – how many re being turned away. Schafer replied 2 to 1.

Action: Need refinements to POP within the next couple of weeks.

b) IA-HERO Planning Sessions for September

Rich Linton described the research sessions planned for the September meeting of the Irish American Higher Education Research Organisation in Portland.

- Two sessions with Ed Ray facilitating the sustainability session and Lesley Hallick facilitating the biosciences session.
- Pernsteiner mentioned that the Irish will be sending policy people and that they are trying to get a handle on whether we choose our investments or do we let every faculty member determine what they want. In terms of Oregon, we choose.
- Pradhan indicated there would be a research issues in higher education concentration.

c) South Waterfront Research Building Update

Dan Dorsa gave a brief update on the South Waterfront Research Building, stating that the concept arose from the Portland Committee chaired by Jim Francesconi and ongoing discussions regarding overlapping programs at PSU and OHSU.

- Consideration of a joint building with OUS trying to identify capital.
- Siting potential at Schnitzer building.
- There has been an anonymous donation of \$40M.
- Building will be trans-institutional for health professions, research, biosciences.
- There is a possibility of bringing industry into this, with more mature companies being attracted to projects occurring in the building.

- Possible programs include: OTRADI, ONAMI, pharmacy, nano-medicine, clinical research, bio-informatics, public health, regulatory environment.
- Life sciences will be focus.
- Will be a multi-phased project.

d) Update on Oregon InC 2009-2011 Plan

Courtney Warner gave a brief update on the Oregon InC 2009-2011 plan, mentioning that they are in the middle of the process.

- Three committees looking at investments, one looking at policy.
- No new signature research centers.
- Recommendations are due in July; final determination in September.
- \$28-30M most they can come back with.

e) Selection of New Chair

As a follow-up to the April Council discussions, Rich Linton indicated that he had served as chair of the Research Council for two years and it was now time for a new chair to be chosen. John Cassady has agreed to serve and was unanimously endorsed by the Council members in attendance. John's two-year term will begin June 2008.

f) Other business

- Linton mentioned the Oregon Cluster Network meeting on May 12 and asked if anyone from the Council was planning to attend.
- Bostrom spoke briefly about the Oregon Innovation Portal and the struggle to get it on the Web.
- Dyess mentioned Bill Newman's report at the next day's Board of Higher Education meeting.
- Bostrom said that the Technology Transfer Streamlining White Paper had been sent
- Cassady mentioned venture funds tracking and the need to coordinate a strategy to work together on continuing fund-raising efforts.

Adjourn: 12 noon

Next meeting: June 5, 10 am to 12 noon; location tba.