



Oregon
University
System

OREGON STATE BOARD OF HIGHER EDUCATION
OUS RESEARCH COUNCIL

MEETING MINUTES

White Stag Building, Portland
Thursday, November 6, 2008; 10:00 am – 12 noon

1) Call to Order/Roll Call

Chair John Cassady called the meeting to order at 10:04 am. The following members were present: Dan Dorsa, Kirby Dyess, Bill Feyerherm, Rich Linton, Gary Tallman

Members Absent: Wayne Embree, John Killoran, Ray Werner, Fred Ziari

Staff present: Maggie Bice

Others: Gail Achterman, OSU, Dana Bostrom, PSU; John Doussard, Oregon InC, Dave Porter, Arun Pradhan, OHSU; Bruce Schafer, OUS; Charles Triplett, OUS; Courtney Warner, Oregon InC, Chuck Williams, UO

2) Discussion

a) Sustainability COEs and POPs

Achterman reported on the status of the multi-institutional research institutes indicating there had been some changes since the October 2 report (see attachment).

- Institute for Natural Resources (INR): PSU has made an investment in the sustainability coalition by leasing a space where partners (Oregon BEST, INR, PSU's Sustainability Center, and the Summer Sustainability Series) can all be located. The Department of State Lands is working on an amendment to the statute that created INR so that it is administered by OSU and OUS institutional partners.
- Oregon Climate Change Research Institute (OCCRI): finalists for the director's position have been interviewed with a likely start date of Spring/Summer 2009. Cassady stated that all four finalists are strong and have the qualities to be director.
- Oregon Water Institute: roundtables being held throughout the state to identify water issues. The results will be reported to the Governor's office and the legislature for the 2009 session. The Oregon Business Plan has embraced a parallel effort.
- Oregon Transportation Research and Education Consortium (OTREC): working on getting its annual report out.

Regarding the Research Council Policy Option Package, Achterman stated that this was the first POP to come forward from the Research Council. It puts a priority on collaboration with Oregon InC, ETIC, etc., and supports two major categories: (1) OUS Centers of Excellence and (2) infrastructure and core research facilities. Discussion continued around the major theme in the POP, sustainability, and how to best portray the issue in a larger context. Comments were made on the importance of showing the parallel between breakthroughs and the need for shared infrastructure and core facilities. Linton suggested focusing on sustainability in the short term and having a longer term focus on infrastructure.

Cassady reported on the Vice Presidents of Research meeting with the Chancellor in which the Chancellor indicated that the Chancellor's Office priority is the core budget. The Vice Presidents of Research will work with the Chancellor on infrastructure and get examples of breakthroughs.

b) OUS/OHSU Life Sciences Collaborative Center

Dorsa gave a brief update on the OUS/OHSU Life Sciences Center at the south waterfront in Portland and provided a handout describing the vision for the center (http://www.ous.edu/news_and_information/news/files/LifeScienceBrochureweb.pdf). He went on to indicate that the need is to create a building around expansion in education, research, and private industry. The Governor is still interested in the building and there is still the potential for pulling funding together for the bond.

Linton added that institution presidents are challenged to move a multi-campus project forward and Cassady agreed, stating that it is important to keep going back to the presidents each step of the way and noting that as multi-campus projects are moved to the top of the list, other campus projects are moved down.

Discussion followed regarding a possible second building in the Portland area that would house sustainability entities. The Chancellor has cautioned that perhaps only one building could be funded.

c) Messaging/graphic re OUS POP and Oregon InC

Lawrence distributed a draft graphic showing the different sustainability groups in Oregon (OUS, Research Council, Provosts' Council, ETIC, and Oregon InC) and how they are related and asked for input. Discussion followed regarding how perhaps one graphic was not enough. Cassady suggested one graphic to show the intersections and alignments and a second to show what the drivers are from OUS and Oregon InC. Other suggestions were to:

- Show the overlapping responsibilities and how money is being invested
- Add the core missions for each group shown on the graphic
- Add impact and outcomes
- Remove sustainability from all the boxes

- Put POP in the center of the graphic and go out to the outcomes

Further discussion centered around who the graphic was focused on – the Board of Higher Education or the legislature. If for the legislature, the graphic would be more focused so that the message of synergy and the impact of that would be shown. Linton suggested creating a sub-group to finalize the graphic. The sub-group would consist of Linton, Luanne Lawrence, Bruce Schafer, and Courtney Warner.

d) New Board Member Orientation

Cassady reported that the process of meeting with Board members had begun with a meeting with Chancellor Pernsteiner and that the Vice Presidents for Research would be meeting with the Board chair later that afternoon. Individual meeting will continue with newer members of the Board. The focus of the meetings will center around Research Council interaction with the Board, the makeup of the Council, Board representation on the Council, and how to work with the Board regarding the strategic plan. Individual meetings with members of the Board will continue.

e) Other Business

3) Adjournment: There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:50 am

Next meeting: December 4, 10 am to 12 noon; Location: Room 333, Smith Memorial Union, Portland State University.

Attachment

MEMORANDUM

October 2, 2008

To: Research Council
cc: Mark Abbott, Michael Campana, Rob Bertini
From: Gail L. Achterman
Re: Sustainability Research at Centers and Institutes

I regret that there was confusion about the meeting location. In lieu of meeting with you, this memorandum provides the substance of my presentation.

1. Status of Multi-Institutional Research Institutes
 - A. Institute for Natural Resources. INR is reconstituting its administrative structure to make it truly multi-institutional. A legislative concept has been prepared by the Department of State Lands related to the natural heritage program. It will amend the statute that created INR to make it match the language used to create the Climate Change Research Institute so that the institute is administered by Oregon State University and “institutional partners within the Oregon University System.” Gail Achterman is relocating her Portland office to new space leased by PSU where Oregon BEST, INR, PSU’s Sustainability Center and the Summer Sustainability Series will be collocated. INR is meeting with relevant NGOs to build support for the INR-related line items in the Research Council Policy Option Package and also meeting with Mike Carrier in the Governor’s office to review INR budget issues.
 - B. OCCRI. Interviews are underway with the finalists for the Director’s position. The applicant pool was very strong. The earliest a new Director is likely to be here is January 2009 due to on-going commitments that each of the finalists has already. There is a very high demand for OCCRI research and technical assistance services coming from the Global Warming Commission and state and local governments. These inquiries and efforts need to be coordinated and focused to assure that the best use is made of our university faculty talent. If OCCRI and the University System are not in a position to respond to these requests, the state agencies and others will go elsewhere to get their needs met. The comparison with other states is stark: California is investing \$60 million annually in the work OCCRI is charged to do with \$180,000 annually.
 - C. Oregon Water Institute. The Institute for Water and Watersheds and INR are holding “water roundtables” around the state. Attendance and interest is very high. The purpose of the roundtables is to identify water issues and opportunities facing Oregonians. Rep. Jackie Dingfelder has worked closely

with us to plan these sessions and legislators are attending them. The Governor's office is also involved. The roundtables will result in a synthesis report for the Governor's office and the legislature to use as they build their water initiative for the 2009 Session. It is also likely to inform the Oregon Business Summit in December. PSU, UO and OSU faculty are planning a "water event" for the Oregon University System to showcase water expertise of students, faculty and staff. The general public will be invited to participate. A \$1.5 earmark request to fund OWI in the FY2009 budget has been submitted with Cong. Blumenauer, however, it is unlikely to be funded. Nonetheless, it does fit well with Cong. Blumenauer's Renew America effort which would include a Water Trust Fund.

D. OTREC. Bill Feyerherm was going to make this report.

2. POP Strategy

The four institute directors met by telephone conference call on October 1, 2008 to discuss how to promote the Research Council's Sustainability Research POP. Jock Mills and Jesse Cornet participated in the call. Given the fiscal reality, the POP may not be funded. Nonetheless, the directors agreed to work together to support the POP and find ways to align the request with other efforts.

Transportation, water and climate change are all high priorities for the Governor in 2009. This provides the greatest opportunity for funding. The institute directors will work to determine how the Oregon University System can align the POP with various agency requests and how to focus the attention and priorities of the Board of Higher Education on the unique opportunities associated with our collective sustainability work.

It is *urgent* for the Oregon University System to have presence, identity and coordination on its sustainability work in order to *concentrate* the energy of faculty throughout the system. The key message to the Board is that *the whole is greater than the sum of the parts*. The same coordination and focus across the system is needed in order to coordinate with state agencies, the Congressional delegation, the business community and others. We need to take a collective "hard look" at what is needed to take advantage of the current interest in sustainability and climate change.

3. Board of Higher Education "Retreat" in November

At the November Board meeting, a two-hour session will be devoted to following up on the April Sustainability Summit. I have been asked by the Chancellor's office to work with Susan Weeks, Susan Bragdon and Bob Simonton to put together a white paper for the docket and the presentations at the Board meeting. This meeting will provide an excellent opportunity to make the case for the POP and the need to invest in research related to sustainability.

Please call me at 541-740-3190 if you have any questions or email me at gail.achterman@oregonstate.edu.

