STATE BOARD OF HIGHER EDUCATION
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
BALLROOM, ERB MEMORIAL UNION
UNIVERSITY OF OREGON
FEBRUARY 15, 2002
12 - 1 P.M.

AGENDA

Call to Order

Roll Call

Approval of Minutes
  ▶ December 21, 2001 Committee of the Whole Minutes 1

Discussion Items
  ▶ Broadening the System’s Participation in Oregon’s Economic Development 17

Adjournment
As part of a strategic planning process, the Board developed a strategic planning agenda and planning calendar for this academic year.

At the December 2001 Board meeting, the Board began the discussion related to determining the most effective balance between centralization and campus autonomy within the System and began a review of alternative system models and alternative sources of revenue.

The Joint Boards of Education began the discussion of workforce issues at its January 2002 meeting and will continue these discussions at the May 2002 meeting of the Joint Boards Working Group.

The strategic planning discussion item for the Committee of the Whole at the February Board meeting relates to broadening the System's participation in Oregon's economic development.

The universities in Oregon represent the best hope for the state's continued transition from a resource-based economy to one that takes greater advantage of the brainpower of its citizens. All of the campuses currently contribute to this effort through a variety of means including pure and applied research, research and technology transfer, preparation of a skilled and well educated employment force, as well as consulting and other direct services to business and multiple services to their communities. The three research universities are distinctive in their research mission, while the other institutions contribute primarily by disseminating knowledge in formal courses, applying research to solve community and economic problems and through a host of other means.

It is also true that both economic development and higher education's response to it has been uneven. At least up to the current recession, the Willamette valley has enjoyed the bulk of the growth while many rural areas suffer depopulation and economic decline.

The System has responded both to the demands of the business, especially the high technology community, and the uneven development patterns in its legislative request. In the midst of a severe downturn in the economy, it is important for the Directors to take a systematic and measured view of the next steps needed to
broaden the economic development agenda.

This discussion will include a panel of private sector and government leaders who will present their perspective on the following questions and have a conversation with the Board as to ways the Board can encourage stronger linkages between the universities and Oregon’s economic future.

Here are some suggested points of departure for the discussion:

- What does an environmental scan tell us about what has been accomplished to date and what is in process in Oregon?

- What are Oregon's chief needs with respect to applied research and human resource development?

- What should be the System’s role in planning a coordinated, efficient response to these needs?

- Specifically, what programs and activities should each university look to implement over the next five years?

- What opportunities exist for joint efforts among several universities?

- What resources will be needed and where will they come from to support these endeavors?

- How can the System and the universities partner with the community colleges, independent institutions and other groups to contribute to better economic opportunities for Oregonians.

The goal of the discussion and planning around this issue is for the Oregon University System to make a powerful contribution both to higher education and to the economic well being of Oregon’s people.

(No Board action required)