Review of Institution Mission Statements and Broad Goals

October 3, 2008
Answers to the quiz

1-c: Oregon State University
2-e: Southern Oregon University
3-g: Western Oregon University
4-f: University of Oregon
5-b: Oregon Institute of Technology
6-a: Eastern Oregon University
7-d: Portland State University

How many did you answer correctly?
What does this exercise tell us?

- Mission statements are by nature broad, high level, and seemingly interchangeable.

- A common focus on student success, learning outcomes for graduates, and inquiry and scholarship may result in similar language across mission statements.

- Current mission statements offer distinctions based on:
  - Place: rural, urban (EOU, PSU)
  - Externally understood program designation: land-grant, polytechnic (OSU, OIT)
  - Commitments (SOU, UO)

*Are there other ways to reflect university distinctiveness through the mission statement?*
Campus plans for board approval

- SOU’s mission statement approved February 2008, not seeking further action
- Mission statements expected to be brought to the Board in November: EOU, OSU, WOU
- Mission statements to be further developed and brought to the Board in 2009: OIT, PSU, UO
Goals for this discussion

1. Consider mission statements of institutions planning to seek Board approval in November (EOU, OSU, WOU)

2. Provide more general guidance for other institutions bringing mission statements to the Board in 2009

3. Review with all seven presidents the goals and directions flowing from their mission statements
   - How well do the goals and directions serve to clarify the institution’s mission?
   - Timeframe for mission-related goals: 5 years? 10 years?

4. Place the discussion into the broader context of the OUS portfolio
   - How to achieve a configuration of missions that serves to meet Board goals
   - How to clarify distinctions and differences among universities