1. **Welcome and Introduction**

Committee members present included Chair Jim Francesconi, Hannah Fisher, Dalton Miller-Jones, Preston Pulliams, and Rosemary Powers.

Others present included Gail Castillo (president of the Hispanic Metropolitan Chamber), President John Sygielski (Mt Hood Community College), Agnes Hoffman (PSU), Emily McLain (OSA), and Neal Naigus (Community Relations, Portland Community College). OUS provosts present included Brad Burda (OIT), Jim Klein (SOU), Roy Koch (PSU), Kent Neely (WOU), and Bob Vieira (OHSU). Chancellor’s Office staff included Chancellor George Pernsteiner, Stephanie Carnahan, Larry Galizio, Endi Hartigan, Joe Holliday, Ruth Keele, Alicia Ortega, Bruce Schafer, Marcia Stuart, Charles Triplett, and Bob Turner.

Chair Francesconi opened the meeting at 3:06 p.m. and noted that there are two “rails” on which the Committee is concentrating – access/student success and economic development; however, he noted that this meeting will concentrate on access and retention. He provided guidelines for the presentations and for the corresponding budget proposals and noted the Committee will be prioritizing the proposals in coming meetings.

**ACTION**

2. **Approval of Minutes of January 14, 2010 Academic Strategies Committee Meeting**

Chair Francesconi called for a motion to approve the January 2010 Committee minutes; Director Powers made the motion and Director Fisher seconded; motion passed.
3. Priority Area Analysis and Development Reports

   a. Student Retention

Chair Francesconi called upon Assistant Vice Chancellor Joe Holliday to present the report on student retention. The five priority items for ASC consideration included 1) actions to increase affordability for students; 2) actions to expand peer mentoring, advising, and tutoring on all campuses; 3) refined performance funding measures that recognize transfer students as well as graduation rates and time to degree; 4) support for the development/refinement of institutional student success plans; and 5) actions to sustain emphasis on traditionally underrepresented students through the nascent network “ONWARD” (Oregon Net-Work for Access, Retention, and Degree Completion).

Director Powers asked whether or not the first item on the matrix would include new funding in the next biennium. She was advised that the Oregon Opportunity Grant will be funded separately from the System allocation but that ICEM (Inter-institutional Council of Enrollment Managers) was recommending changes in the formula. Chancellor Pernsteiner advised that the performance framework will include measures pertaining to student retention and graduation rates. Director Powers asked that the Committee be mindful that this proposed work will require additional funding. Chair Francesconi called upon Agnes Hoffman, PSU, for an institution perspective; Hoffman advised that the state funding for the OOG is not adequate and that additional funds will be needed in order to meet state retention goals.

Director Miller-Jones recommended looking very closely at the high-aid/high-tuition model as the number of students actually receiving support is not proportionate to the high tuition rates, especially in underrepresented student groups. He also requested that the label “high-risk” not be used in future documents as that may tag or inadvertently discriminate against these students. He asked if the passage of Measures 66 and 67 will, in actuality, bring additional funds to the System. Director Fisher noted that the emphasis in student peer mentoring is vital and should not be forgotten. Director Powers asked that the retention-oriented efforts of first-year experience groups be acknowledged; Holliday agreed and noted that it will be included.

Committee members expressed interest in refining and expanding performance funding related to student-success measures; requiring that data-driven campus success plans be developed by the campuses; and expansion of research efforts. Director Francesconi recommended that there be a stronger statement that money needs to be tied to increasing performance for retention.

Director Powers noted that over the past three years, the Student Participation and Completion Committee had become a highly collaborative committee and, as much of that work had been moved into the priority areas of the ASC, it was important that critical elements not currently addressed continue to have a vehicle for addressing them. To that end, Powers and Director Miller-Jones formed the “ONWARD” network. This network will continue to evaluate the
barriers preventing the smooth transition of students through the educational pipeline and to
explore ways to have faculty engagement in the work of increasing participation of Oregonians
in seeking and completing a postsecondary education. Miller-Jones noted that ONWARD will
promote and advance the goals set by the Joint Boards of Education.

Director Powers moved to endorse the action items contained in the five priority areas noted in
the Student Retention report; Director Pulliams seconded; motion passed. Miller-Jones advised
that the SP&C Committee will be meeting one more time as part of the transition of issues to
the ONWARD network.

b. Portland Access and Student Success

Director Pulliams and Gail Castillo presented the report on Portland Student Access and
Success. The recommendations for the initiative on Portland-area higher education student
success were developed in consultation with a broad-based resource team. The 4 areas for
strategic focus identified were: 1) collaboration through the creation of a Portland Regional
Higher Education Access Council; 2) financial support initiatives, including an inventory of
currently available scholarships and starting a public awareness campaign; 3) academic
preparation/creating a college going culture through academic preparation efforts for first-
generation students and students of color, including an inventory of current programs
statewide; and 4) recruitment of and in-college support for underrepresented students in
Oregon colleges and universities.

Pulliams noted that collaboration among the education and business sectors needs to be
expanded, creating an advisory council that could advocate for postsecondary education in
Oregon (including private institutions). The first step in collaboration would be to create a
Portland Regional Higher Education Access Advisory Council. Castillo explained the second key
issue of affordability: keeping college costs within reach and providing sufficient scholarships
and other aid while minimizing education loans. She noted that there are many organizations
and foundations providing scholarships and that the working group recommends that an
inventory of available scholarships be compiled and/or updated into a user-friendly, searchable
database based on and expanding the OSAC scholarship e-application model. Pulliams advised
the third area is creating a college-going culture and academic preparation; identifying best
practices for preparing students of color and first-generation college students for college
entrance and success. Dr. Sygielski presented the fourth area: recruitment of and in-college
support for underrepresented students in Oregon colleges and universities (recruitment,
mentoring, and first-year experience [FYE] programs); engaging with educational stakeholders
to secure funding so that all underrepresented students can take FYE courses/programs free of
charge.

Chair Francesconi commended the working group for their inclusiveness and reaching out to
the community. Director Powers asked how they would address specific regional issues and
why the recommendations pertain only to the metropolitan area of Portland. Pulliams agreed that these should be priorities throughout the state and suggested that any structure proposed be statewide rather than just Portland. Powers noted that the strength of the proposal should be from Portland due to the large population of underrepresented Oregonians but that the principles should be applied to the entire state. Holliday noted that the Portland Advisory working group will be charged to focus on Portland. Miller-Jones pointed to the advisory council’s policy deliverables listed on page 14 of the docket material and how these may be worded in other proposals but are distinctive in their application to the metropolitan area. Pulliams advised that their working group attracted groups from Washington state that are looking to invest funds into the Portland initiatives.

Pulliams advised the working group will be meeting again to explore additional priority areas and funding sources (e.g., Gates Foundation). Chair Francesconi asked for more clarification in the next iteration on which of these initiatives are intended to be statewide, and which are intended to be regional. Francesconi made a motion to approve the priorities: create a regional advisory council; inventory available scholarships and promote public awareness; identify existing and new funding to create a collaborative, college-going culture; and develop a special emphasis on underrepresented populations in the Portland metropolitan area. Director Powers seconded and motion passed.

c. Rural Student Success

Director Powers and Larry Galizio presented the report on rural student success. Powers advised that the Legislature had mandated and the Joint Boards directed the formation of the rural-access working group. The working group is comprised of Co-chairs Rosemary Powers and Nikki Squire (State Board of Education), President Bob Davies (EOU), Larry Galizio (Director of Strategic Planning, OUS), President Chris Maples (OIT), President Jim Middleton (Central Oregon Community College), Chancellor George Pernsteiner (OUS), Commissioner Camille Preus (Community Colleges Workforce Development), President Ed Ray (OSU/OSU-Cascades), President Patty Scott (Southwestern Oregon Community College), and President John Turner (Blue Mountain Community College).

Powers and Galizio reported on action items related to rural student success in Oregon, which were categorized under two goals, 1) to strengthen college-going culture in rural areas, and 2) to improve program completion and credential attainment in rural areas. Action items for goal one include: a) increased investment in ASPIRE & GEAR UP; b) strengthening of dual credit options; c) strengthening of Extended Options; d) support for professional development for middle/HS teachers; e) promoting rural student an parent ambassadors, f) increasing collaboration among CC & university outreach programs, and g) increasing outreach efforts for adult learners. Action items under goal two included: a) developing new regional “open campus” processes and agreements; b) applying a “hub and spoke” model to increase enrollment and capacity; c) developing a system-wide interdisciplinary degree option; e) considering an applied BA of science degree; and f) promoting assessment of experiential
learning. Finally, there was a recommendation to include rural student recruitment and retention as a performance measure for postsecondary institutions.

Provost Neely expressed the Provosts’ Council’s concern in lower quality of education if approving high school courses as postsecondary credit; Chancellor Pernsteiner noted the concern but commended the working group for “thinking outside the box” and expressed the need to change how we currently think in order to address the concerns of rural access.

In conclusion, Director Powers emphasized that the efforts to advance educational attainment for rural Oregonians presumes that parallel actions will be taken to enhance the economic sustainability of rural communities. Otherwise, the initiatives proposed may simply serve to accelerate the rate of depopulation of rural Oregon by educated individuals going elsewhere to build their futures.

Chair Francesconi asked that the working group identify which areas pertain to rural areas in particular or can be statewide. Miller-Jones asked that the issues expressed by the Provosts’ Council be addressed. Pernsteiner noted that degrees cannot be approved by the Board unless approved by the Provosts’ Council. He stated that the details of degree authorization will be “fleshed out” at a later date and advised against delaying approval of these proposed priorities. The Chancellor asked that the proposal to include rural student recruitment and retention as a performance measure for postsecondary institutions be postponed for further discussion, pending the outcome of a related discussion in the Board’s Governance and Policy Committee.

Director Preston Pulliams made the motion to adopt the report’s proposed actions, except for the recommendation to include rural student recruitment and retention as a performance measure for postsecondary institutions. Director Miller-Jones seconded; motion passed.

4. OUS, Undergraduate Admission Requirements Policy for 2011-12

Chair Francesconi asked for discussion and approval of the policy and called upon Assistant Vice Chancellor Holliday to present the item.

Holliday reported that undergraduate admissions policy format as presented was the same as in previous years with proposed changes highlighted. Proposed new criteria included that demonstrated proficiency in an American Indian language meet all or part of the second language requirements for students, and that EOU change their minimum GED score from 400 to 410. Other changes are noted in the document.

Holliday advised that the language pertaining to “Federally recognized tribes” could potentially be changed in the next policy submission. Director Powers commended the inclusion of “demonstrated proficiency in an American Indian language” as an approved second language.
Bob Turner added that the UEE will be developing revisions for this document for the 2012-13 Academic Year related to aligning OUS policies with the essential skill framework of the new Oregon high school diploma. He directed attention to the Automatic Admission Policy and how this is implementing the Joint Boards’ essential skills policy.

Following discussion, Chair Francesconi called for a motion to approve the Undergraduate Admissions Requirements Policy for 2011-12; Pulliams moved and Francesconi seconded; motion passed (Miller-Jones and Powers abstained).

Francesconi recommended that the Interinstitutional Committee on Admissions and Recruitment (ICAR) address and explore issues related to minimum GPA and additional bases for admission. Pulliams moved and Powers seconded the following additional motion:

“The Academic Strategies Committee of the Oregon State Board of Higher Education requests that the Interinstitutional Committee on Admissions and Recruitment (ICAR) include the OUS Admission and Financial Assistance Policy (as attached, with “cut scores” to be determined) in the OUS Undergraduate Admission Requirements Policy for the 2012-13 Academic Year that it submits to the Provosts’ Council and the Academic Strategies Committee for approval in the winter of 2011. The Academic Strategies Committee also requests that ICAR evaluate additional factors that could be used to consider a student’s potential for success, including but not limited to an Insight Resume, such as that required by Oregon State University ([http://oregonstate.edu/admissions/firstyear/gen_requirements.html](http://oregonstate.edu/admissions/firstyear/gen_requirements.html)), and the student’s academic trajectory during their third year of high school.”

Director Powers seconded the motion; the motion passed unanimously.

REPORTS AND UPDATES

5. Preview of March and April Academic Strategies Committee Meetings

Turner provided a proposed schedule for the Committee for the next six months and asked that the Committee review the schedule.

6. Adjournment

Chair Francesconi adjourned the meeting at 5:30 p.m.

Minutes prepared by Marcia Stuart and Endi Hartigan