Review of Board Strategic Planning in 2002-03

System Strategic Planning Committee
July 18, 2003
Planning assumptions

- OUS will need to serve greater numbers of students (entering from high school, in the workforce, returning after an absence)
- In collaboration with the state, OUS has an obligation to provide affordable higher education
- Solutions to access and affordability choices require participation of multiple providers (OUS, community colleges, independent colleges, OSAC)
- State funding over next few biennia not likely to support fully-funded RAM
- State’s budget realities argue for greater OUS flexibility in accessing other revenue sources
Vision 2002

- Links access and excellence
- Promotes diversity on OUS campuses
- Renews commitment to growth
- Addresses affordability
- Foundation for The Deal
Framing the policy discussion

Quality

State $

Access

Affordability
Quality related measures

- Diversity
- Freshman persistence to second year
- Bachelor’s completion
- Quality ratings by recent graduates
- Sponsored research and other support
- Philanthropic support
Early warning signals

- Increasing student-faculty ratios
- Non-competitive faculty compensation
- More part-time faculty
- Reduced course sections
- Deferring life-cycle capital repairs
Quality’s connection to access and affordability

- Board has spent a year searching for solutions to the quality-access-affordability conundrum

- With declining state support, choosing access means lowering quality

- Preserving quality means denying access to OUS to thousands of students, especially the most financially needy
Commitment to quality

Joint Boards statement adopted May 16, 2003:

The link between enrollment and funding has a direct relationship to the quality of instruction offered by the public two-year and four-year colleges and universities in Oregon. In the absence of a state commitment to sustain quality in our postsecondary education systems, further declines in state funding will occur without regard to the quality of instruction offered.

By the 2003-04 fiscal year, both the State Board of Education and the State Board of Higher Education will implement policies setting maximum capacity levels of funded enrollment, based on and indexed to the level of state funding per full-time equivalent (FTE) student that existed for community colleges in 2001-02 and for OUS institutions for 2002-03.

Continued …
Commitment to quality (cont’d)

The Joint Boards of Education are committed to the quality of the post-secondary educational experience and intend to demonstrate, through this funded enrollment level policy, that a “sustainable enrollment level” can be identified and must be tied directly to the funding allocated to public postsecondary education in any given fiscal period.

In furtherance of its responsibility for Systemwide tuition policy in the Oregon University System, the State Board of Higher Education will assure that if a campus determines that it can enroll additional students beyond the limits of this enrollment-to-funding relationship—supported only by the tuition/fees of the enrollments—the institutions will take the necessary measures to assure that the quality of the student experience and the level of campus performance are maintained.
The next few months

- Developing statements on Access and Affordability
- Deliberating issues regarding Diversity in greater depth
- Initiating discussions of Mission Differentiation
- Continuing discussions of Preparation and other issues that build the K-16 connections