MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL TELEPHONIC MEETING OF THE
STATE BOARD OF HIGHER EDUCATION (#791)
JULY 18, 2007

Page

1. Call to Order/Roll Call/............................................................................................................. 1
2. Action Item .................................................................................................................................. 1
   a. EOU, Appointment of Interim President .............................................................................. 1
3. Adjournment ................................................................................................................................ 3
1. **CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL/**

President Henry Lorenzen called the special meeting of the Board to order at 4:02 p.m.

Board members present included President Henry Lorenzen and Directors Don Blair, Kirby Dyess, Hannah Fisher, Jim Francesconi, Adriana Mendoza, Dalton Miller-Jones, and Preston Pulliams (arriving at 4:04 p.m.). Chancellor’s Office staff present included: Ryan Hagemann, Marcia Stuart, and Jan Barkley. Others present included Dr. Dixie Lund and Tim Seydel from Eastern Oregon University.

2. **ACTION ITEM**

   a. **EOU, Appointment of Interim President**

   **DOCKET ITEM:**

   A special Board meeting will be convened on July 18, 2007, via teleconferencing, for the purpose of selecting an Interim President of Eastern Oregon University. Chancellor George Pernsteiner recommends that Dr. Dixie Lund be named Interim President of EOU. This appointment is to become effective August 1, 2007, and continue until a new president has been appointed. A well-known and respected former interim president, dean, and faculty member at Eastern, Lund will be coming out of retirement to serve as interim president.

   **Background:**

   When the appointment is approved, Lund will succeed Dr. Khosrow Fatemi. A long-time presence at Eastern Oregon University, Lund previously served as interim president for a year beginning in June 2003 after the departure of former EOU president Dr. Philip Creighton. Lund served for a decade as dean in EOU’s Division of Distance Education and held several other positions at EOU during her 30+ year tenure at Eastern.

   As Dean of the Division of Distance Education, Lund was instrumental in expanding EOU’s on-line and remote education programs across the entire state. Currently, EOU has statewide offices in 18 cities and towns. Under Lund’s leadership, Oregonians living in remote areas of the state gained access to higher education degree programs, which in the past had only been available by attending a “traditional” campus.
Lund came to EOU as an instructor in the Division of Social Science and Business in 1973, having also obtained her B.S. in Secondary Business Education there that same year. Lund went on to obtain an Ed.M. in Adult Education from Oregon State University in 1984, and her Ed.D. in Postsecondary Educational Leadership from Portland State University in 1989. During her tenure at EOU, Lund held various teaching and coordinator positions in business, humanities, general studies, and distance learning. In 1994 she was named dean of EOU’s Division of Distance Education, and grew on-line education for the university to the point where it is a model in Oregon and in other states that contend with remote, rural access to higher education. Active in the local La Grande community, Lund also received the EOU Woman of Courage and Vision Award and, in 2002, received the Oregon Women in Higher Education Service Award.

**Staff Recommendation to the Board**

Staff recommended that the Board appoint Dr. Dixie Lund as Interim President of EOU, to be effective August 1, 2007, and continue until a new president has been appointed.

**BOARD DISCUSSION AND ACTION:**

President Lorenzen advised the Board that, upon Chancellor Pernsteiner’s recommendation to appoint Dr. Lund, he had contacted campus leadership and others in the community concerning the appointment and concluded that the Board is “very fortunate” to have Dr. Lund agree to serve as interim president. He added that she has the confidence of the staff and the community.

President Lorenzen called upon Dr. Lund. She said that she was taken aback when called by Chancellor Pernsteiner but, after several days’ contemplation, without hesitation, called to agree to the appointment. Since then, she has met with groups on the campus and is honored to be returning to Eastern at this time and looks forward to the challenging role.

Director Miller-Jones asked how the Board can be supportive to Dr. Lund in taking on this challenging position and moving the campus forward. Dr. Lund advised that, after sharing with a number of people, the feeling she has from the campus is that the Board’s support, and President Lorenzen’s personal support in particular, is bringing a rapid turnaround of hope on the part of the campus employees. The campus believes that the Board does have concern about the campus and that “they matter.” She has also received calls from the community pledging support and she will continue to bring that message back to the campus. She invited the Board members to come to the campus and meet with staff and community members.

Director Francesconi noted that when he recently visited the campus, he did find that the campus and community do speak very highly of Dr. Lund. He asked what her thoughts are her plans to reverse the enrollment trends. She advised that there is an enrollment management committee chaired by Provost Miller that meets regularly. At a recent meeting of the committee, a large group of campus employees attended and expressed concerned about the enrollment situation and its impact on the campus. She advised that the committee is engaged
in a telephone campaign, site and community colleges visits, following up to find out why some students are not returning in the fall, and reviewing potential financial aid packages. As an alumnus of the University, Dr. Lund advised she will be actively speaking to promote the value of a small university education and cite herself as an example.

Dr. Lund advised that the vice president for student affairs, under which admissions operates, has recently accepted another position; therefore, she will be determining an interim replacement for that position.

Director Francesconi noted that diversity was well emphasized by the former president and that, given the statistics on diversity throughout the System, it will be important for Dr. Lund continue to give emphasis to diversity to the University. Dr. Lund agreed and thanked him for the advice.

Director Miller-Jones made the motion to appoint Dr. Lund as interim president of Eastern Oregon University and Director Dyess seconded the motion. Due telephonic nature of the Board meeting, President Lorenzen called for a roll call vote. Those voting in the affirmative included: Blair, Dyess, Fisher, Francesconi, Mendoza, Miller-Jones, Pulliams, Sohn, and Lorenzen. Those opposing: none. Motion carried.

3. **ADJOURNMENT**

President Lorenzen congratulated Dr. Lund on her appointment and adjourned the meeting at 4:15 p.m.