MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE
ACADEMIC STRATEGIES COMMITTEE
JANUARY 14, 2010

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Committee members present included Chair Jim Francesconi, Hannah Fisher, Dalton Miller-Jones, and Rosemary Powers; Director Pulliams was absent due to a business conflict.

Others present included Gail Achtermann (OSU), Provost James Bean (UO), Provost Brad Burda (OIT), John Cassady (UO), Bill Feyerherm (PSU), Provost Michael Jaeger (EOU), Provost Jim Klein (SOU), and Charles Martinez (UO); Chancellor’s Office staff included Endi Hartigan, Joe Holliday, Ruth Keele (CO), Alicia Ortega, Di Saunders, Marcia Stuart, Charles Triplett, and Bob Turner.

Chair Francesconi convened the meeting of the Academic Strategies Committee at 3:04 p.m. He then made opening comments concerning the work of the Committee in the era of diminishing funding and prioritizing the work of the Committee—both new and old (e.g., research, sustainability, teacher education, etc.). The priority areas will be brought forward in draft to the June full Board meeting; however, the preliminary priority areas will be first submitted in March for a full Board discussion. The portfolio-institution mission priority area will be discussed in detail at the Provosts’ Council’s retreat in late-January. Legislative concepts are due at the March Board meeting. Director Miller-Jones advised that the teacher education is not separate from the Latino Student Success; Francesconi agreed and added that all of the priority areas weave together into a whole package. Holliday advised that the Government-to-Government Cluster (the nine tribes) met with Chancellor Pernsteiner to discuss how a priority area could be established for the tribes, along the lines of the Latino Student Success initiative. Francesconi agreed but noted that we should be careful not to be seen as emphasizing one ethnic group over another. Director Powers advised that the rural student success task group will be reporting to the February ASC meeting; it was noted that there are no provosts involved in this task group; therefore, Powers noted that she will contact the regional university provosts (regional university presidents have been participating).

**ACTION ITEMS**

1. **Approval of the November 2009 Committee Minutes**

Chair Francesconi made the motion to accept the minutes, Director Fisher seconded; motion was carried.
2. **Priority Area Analysis and Development Reports**

a. **Research**

Dr. John Cassady, Research Council Chair, noted that in his 45 years of higher education experience this Research Council has been the most effective and supported committee in which he has participated; adding that the success of research has been the outstanding faculty in the System universities. He advised that the recommended priority areas include the following:

Council Recommendations:
1) Strategic research programs and partnerships
2) Research infrastructure enhancements (competitive core facilities that include OUS Proteomics Consortium for shared biotechnology instrumentation facilities; high performance computing; and Life Sciences Collaborative Building)
3) Undergraduate research fellowships (expanding undergraduate research opportunities at public and private institutions in Oregon by creating an “Undergraduate Research Leadership Award”)
4) Research streamlining and impact (enhance metrics, outcomes, and goals for research and technology transfer activities; employ multi-media assets, electronic databases and web-based portals on research and innovation)

Dr. Feyerherm added that a consensus has been established between institutions and research communities in Oregon to support the recommendations. Dr. Cassady noted that the Provosts’ Council will be presenting funding recommendations on graduate research. Director Miller-Jones expressed his concern on the reality of faculty resources and support, noting that teaching loads have vastly increased over the past decade. He asked what resources will faculty receive when building the Council’s initiatives into their programs; Cassady replied that the proposed is not a “top-down” process but that key stakeholders on campuses have been involved, giving the opportunity of input into the development of these initiatives. Dr. Achterman advised that the proposal includes funding for representatives from various arenas to develop their programs (i.e., seed matching to compete for federal grants). An example is the OSU-Cascades campus and how they have incorporated input from the local businesses in developing their grant programs.

Chair Francesconi asked if the priority areas have been prioritized; Dr. Cassady advised that they have not. Dr. Feyerherm added that they are all interwoven; however, Chair Francesconi directed the Council to provide a prioritization. In discussing budget, Dr. Cassady advised that, ten years ago, the RAM included a line-item on research funding; however, due to the nature of the budget model, successes have not been translated into increased funding. ($125 million in funding has grown to over $350 million in funding and expenditures.)

Chair Francesconi called for a motion to approve the priority areas, approve the no-funding adjustments, support and recommend to the Board the reallocation strategies and the new
funding opportunities, and for the Council to bring back more detailed priority areas. Director Miller-Jones made the motion and Director Fisher seconded; motion passed.

b. Sustainability

Chair Francesconi called upon Dr. Gail Achterman to present the Sustainability Initiatives Committee recommendations. She noted that the Committee includes representatives from academics, business, and community, emphasizing that this is a Systemwide area of excellence. She explained that the policy should specifically address System goals in:

1) Education/curriculum
2) Research/innovation
3) Community engagement
4) Facilities and operations
5) Accountability

Committee Recommendations:

1) That the Board adopt core values in sustainability in the areas of education, research, service, facilities and operations, and accountability
2) Recruit and hire an OUS sustainability coordinator within the Chancellor’s Office
3) Create a Sustainability Incentive Fund to support sustainability innovations in teaching, research, outreach, and operations
4) Develop and implement Systemwide service-learning opportunities
5) Create networking opportunities for faculty and students
6) Design and launch a shared Systemwide sustainability website

Dr. Achterman stated that, in a show of support for sustainability and “green” issues, students have included a fee to support sustainability on several of the campuses and stressed that the Board should make it a priority. There is a great need for additional staffing to run the sustainability programs, therefore, the Committee highly recommended the addition of a position in the Chancellor’s Office to oversee the sustainability efforts on the campuses. Director Fisher added that, if the Board doesn’t make a “big gesture,” the students will perceive it as an “us against them” mentality and a feeling that the Board doesn’t support their efforts. Dr. Achterman agreed and mentioned the University of California System’s work in the sustainability arena. Director Powers added her support.

Chair Francesconi queried the members concerning the addition of a position in the Chancellor’s Office and the perception of the campuses concerning the oversight. Dr. Achterman explained that this recommendation was submitted by the campus facilities directors; it allows the campuses to develop their own programs under the umbrella of the System. Provost Burda agreed and added that the regional universities have limited resources and having a central director to provide technical support would alleviate some of that load. Director Fisher cautioned against giving the perception that the System is supporting sustainability over diversity in funding levels.
Chair Francesconi called for a motion to approve the recommendations from the Committee, in particular, the recommendations to focus in the five areas of sustainability; to adopt the recommendations of the Committee that require no new funding adjustments and/or reallocation strategies, but that new funding opportunities will be further developed, with the exception of hiring the new Sustainability Coordinator at this time. Director Miller-Jones made the motion and Director Fisher seconded; motion passed.

Dr. Achterman and Charles Triplett advised that the Committee will be tasked to develop a position description for the proposed additional System-level position.

c. Teacher Education

Chair Francesconi called upon Dr. Bob Turner for the recommendations for the Teacher Education priority area. Included is: 1) the Data Exchange Mechanism (survey) and that the Chalkboard is expressing their intention to provide additional funding; estimated $35,000 to $50,000. 2) Access to K-12 student data to develop a seamless data exchange among OUS, K-12 districts, ODE, CCWD, and Oregon Employment Division (there is a cost of subscription to the National Student Clearinghouse). 3) New teacher induction (teacher preparation and mentoring), acknowledging that there is increased national support for new teacher (first-year) internships; and a mentoring/induction best practices survey. 4) Professional development of STEM current teachers. 5) Minority teacher recruitment, preparation, and retention. Dr. Turner asked that the Committee endorse the proposed data exchange mechanism and the funding to carry-out an educator graduate survey. Provost Jaeger shared that concerns have been expressed as to the dissemination of and public access to the information gathered through the data exchange survey. Director Miller-Jones noted that national grant applications for the “Race to the Top” funding requires the information provided through the data exchange mechanism (Chair Francesconi requested that the data exchange mechanism be included in the February agenda for further discussion).

Chair Francesconi made a motion to support the data exchange with a shared subscription to the National Student Clearinghouse, new teacher induction, STEM, and minority teacher recruitment/preparation/retention; Director Fisher seconded; motion passed.

Dr. Turner directed the Committee’s attention to the draft legislation by Representative Komp.

REPORTS AND UPDATES

3. Latino Student Success Priority Area

Chair Francesconi called upon Dr. Charles Martinez (UO) and Alicia Ortega (Chancellor’s Offic) for their report. Dr. Martinez drew the Committee’s attention to the handout that provides a timeline of topic/focus areas and the accompanying key discussion points and initial strategies, and detailed agenda content/information for the January 2010 meeting on “expanding the (educational) pipeline” for Latino students in Oregon. Other topics to be discussed through
April 2010 include overcoming access barriers, retention and graduation, and success after graduation and developing community connections. Ms. Ortega noted that the Resource Team wants to build upon rather than replace what progress has been developed to date and to focus on strategies that can be immediately implemented rather than superficially talking around the issues.

Chair Francesconi complimented the work that has and is being done and noted that short- and long-term goals and successes need to be documented to demonstrate to the public the needs of the Latino community. He asked if the K-12 system has been consulted and that the recommendations of the Team will be supported by K-12 and community colleges. Mr. Martinez expressed his assurance that they have been inclusive in the team members but that the System’s relationship to K-12/community colleges may need to be employed to ensure cooperation and involvement. Chair Francesconi noted that community colleges have engaged in this arena before the University System began their work.

Mr. Martinez called upon Director Miller-Jones. Miller-Jones cautioned the Committee from continuing discussions on the subject without any action and implementation of recommendations with accountability. Director Powers affirmed her support of the work of the team and asked that specific actions be submitted to the Committee to confirm and approve. Chair Francesconi noted that faculty hiring/retention and graduation rates be two areas of concern and concentration. He asked that a presentation (with a cross-section of the team) be given at the March Committee meeting.

4. Adjournment

Chair Francesconi adjourned the meeting at 5:12 p.m.

Minutes prepared by Marcia Stuart and Endi Hartigan