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Meeting Notes

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 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; Summary of Actions Approved at that 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; ASC Recommendations to Each Reporting Priority Area

a. Student Retention

Chair Francesconi called upon Associate Vice Chancellor Holliday to present the agenda item. The five priority areas for consideration include: affordability; expanding peer mentoring, advising, and tutoring; performance measures (accountability in the application of funds) that recognize the growth and importance of transfer students as well as the importance of “crossing the finish line” (retention and time-to-degree); development/refinement of institution student success plans that increase student retention and graduation and to include program evaluation of existing efforts and research to identify new approaches; and serving traditionally underrepresented students, linking the efforts of the Board, ASC, and ICEM with the nascent Student Participation & Completion Network (newly formed under the ONWARD committee). Director Powers asked whether or not the first item on the matrix would include new funding under the next biennia; the Opportunity Grant will be funded separately from the System allocation but the ICEM were recommending changes in the formula. Chancellor Pernsteiner advised that the performance measurements will be revised to 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; she advised that the state funding for the OOG is underfunded and that additional funds will be needed in order to meet state retention goals.

Director Miller-Jones recommended looking very closely to 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 group. 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-fear experience groups be acknowledged; Holliday agreed and noted that it will be included.

Refining and expanding performance funding (student-success) measures; require data-driven campus success plans be developed by the campuses; and research efforts be expanded. Chancellor Pernsteiner advised that the performance funding pertains mainly to transfer students and the corresponding funding; he noted that the process needs to be refined in order to ensure that funding is received in a timely manner. Francesconi emphasized that funding must to be tied to retention efforts so that the legislature acknowledges that these goals cannot be met without adequate funding.

Director Powers shared that the Student Participation & Completion Committee has developed a highly collaborative committee and, in the reorganization of Board governance, she and Director Miller-Jones, not wanting the work of the committee to be lost or discontinued, formed the “ONWARD” subcommittee. This subcommittee 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. He noted that this subcommittee will promote and advance the goals set by the Joint Boards of Education.

Chair Francesconi asked, prior to calling for a motion to accept the five priorities, for discussion. Provost Koch encouraged that the mission of the institutions and the differences between the campuses be acknowledged in light of the proposed language. Miller-Jones replied that the committee attempted to not make the language be prescripted but that to be inclusive and Systemwide. Director Powers made the motion to accept the report of the Student Retention Committee and to approve the five priority areas; Director Pulliams seconded; motion passed. Miller-Jones advised that the SP&C Committee will be meeting one more time to recruit members to serve on the ONWARD subcommittee. Dr. Hoffman called attention to the ONWARD’s charge and asked if it will be approved by the Committee; Francesconi affirmed that the charge requires Committee approval but advised that the subcommittee has requested review and possible edits before submitting to the Committee for approval.

b. Portland Student Success

Chair Francesconi called upon Director Pulliams who acknowledged his working group’s membership and the expanded participation list noted in the docket material. He then advised the four main emphases are: collaboration, college preparation, academic and personal support, and financial support. He advised that, during the campaign for Measures 66 and 67, the two sides of the issue did not collaborate or even listen to each other’s opinions. In applying this lack of collaboration to this issue, he 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”; identifying organizations and individuals whose membership in the Council is considered key and then recruit members. He called upon Gale Castillo to share 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 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). Francesconi stated that it needs to be defined as to the System and Portland State’s role in advancing these goals. Chair Francesconi made a motion to approve the priorities: to create a regional advisory council; to create inventory available scholarships and promote public awareness; identify existing and new funding to create a collaborative, college-going culture, and a special emphasis to underrepresented populations in the Portland metropolitan area. Director Powers seconded and motion was passed.

c. Rural Student Success

Chair Francesconi called upon Director Powers to present the item; she advised that the legislature mandated and the Joint Boards directed the formation of the rural-access working group. She advised that the working group is comprised of Co-chairs Rosemary Powers and Nikki Squire (State Board of Education), President Bob Davies (EOU), Larry Galizio (Dir for Strategic Planning, Strategic Programs and 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).

Larry Galizio called the Committee’s attention to page 19 of the docket, “Goal One: Strengthen College-Going Culture in Rural Areas;” and the seven areas of potential action. 1) increase investment in ASPIRE & GEAR-UP, 2) Dual Credit Option, 3) Expanded Options, 4) professional development for teachers and counselors, 5) promote rural student and/or parent ambassadors, 6) postsecondary collaboration in outreach activities, and 7) increase outreach efforts for “adult” learners. Powers addressed Goal Two: Improve Program Completion and Credential Attainment:” 1) develop new regional “open campus” processes to remove barriers to attendance at multiple institutions, 2) apply “hub-and-spoke” education model, 3) develop a Systemwide Oregon “Interdisciplinary Degree” option, 4) consider implementing applied Bachelor of Science degree using hob-and-spoke model, and 5) promote assessment of prior
experiential learning. 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; however, Pernsteiner noted that degrees cannot be approved by the Board unless approved by the 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.

Director Preston Pulliams made the motion to adopt the following proposed actions and Director Miller-Jones seconded; motion passed.

**Actions to Strengthen College-Going Culture in Rural Areas**

- Increase investment in proven pre-college outreach programs: increase ASPIRE sites statewide (with priority in rural areas) from 115 to 210. A $341,380 investment for 2011-12 will add 45 sites. $697,472 for 2012-13 will expand the program by another 50 sites. Invest $475,000 in GEAR-UP to add 10 clusters serving middle and high schools
- Promote availability of Dual Credit Option through state loan forgiveness initiative as incentive for subject-area M.A.’s agreeing to teach in rural schools
- Reduce barriers to participation in Expanded Options program by providing financial incentives to high schools and postsecondary institutions
- Increase pre-college advising skills for middle and high school teachers/ counselors by funding summer institutes at colleges and universities
- Promote student/parent ambassadors for rural middle and high school visitations
- Increase collaboration among community colleges and universities in rural school outreach (e.g., travel funds for college/university visits, training for outreach staff)
- Increase outreach efforts in rural communities for “adult” learners by increasing access sites and opportunities for gateway/introductory courses
**Actions to Improve Program Completion and Credential Attainment**

- Develop new regional “open campus” processes and agreements with financial support for the Eastern Oregon Collaborative Colleges Consortium, and for the OSU/TBCC/COCC Madras and Prineville campuses for developmental education
- Apply a “hub-and-spoke” education model through enhanced rural broadband infrastructure, and fiscal support for several rural access points (e.g., extension offices, libraries, K-12 schools). Pilot gateway/introductory courses anticipating small classes
- Create a Systemwide “interdisciplinary” or “independent” degree option including financial support for development and coordination by faculty and administration
- Implement Applied Bachelor of Science Degree employing “hub-and-spoke” model through financial support to OIT or OSU and at least one community college partner
- Promote Assessment of Prior Experiential Learning (APEL) or similar program with pilot funding to strengthen advising and instruction capacity
- Include rural student recruitment and retention as a performance measure for postsecondary institutions

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

Chair Francesconi asked for the discussion and approval of the policy and called upon Associate Vice Chancellor Holliday to present the item. Dr. Turner directed attention to the Automatic Admission Policy and how this is implementing the Joint Boards’ essential skills policy. Holliday advised that the language pertaining to “Federally recognized tribes” could potentially be changed in the next policy submission and the elimination of the second language requirement in the policy. Director Powers commended the inclusion of “demonstrated proficiency in an American Indian language” as an approved second language.

Following discussion, Chair Francesconi called for a motion to approve, Pulliams seconded and Francesconi seconded. Francesconi recommended that the policy be approved but that the ICAR address and explore the issue of minimum GPA; motion passed (Miller-Jones and Powers abstained).

Director Pulliams made a motion to 1) adopt admissions requirements for Fall 2011-12 as presented in the docket and 2) the Academic Strategies Committee of the Oregon State Board of Higher Education directed the Interinstitutional Council of Admissions Officers and Registrars to include the OUS Admission and Financial Assistance Policy (attached, “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 Committee also directed the Interinstitutional Council on Admissions and Recruitment (ICAR) to evaluate additional factors that could be used to consider a student’s potential for success, including but not limited to an Insight Résumé, such as that required by OSU (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 motions and both motions were passed unanimously.
REPORTS AND UPDATES

5. Preview of March and April Academic Strategies Committee Meetings

Dr. 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.