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Minutes

Committee members present: Chair James Francesconi, Jill Eiland, Jim Middleton, Emily Plec and Brianna Coulombe. Director David Yaden was absent.

Chancellor’s staff present: Karen Marrongelle, Charles Triplett, Anna Teske, Joe Holliday, Bruce Schafer, Bob Kieran, Marcia Stuart, Di Saunders, and Rod Johnson.

Campus representatives present: Sona Andrews (PSU), Jim Klein (SOU), Jim Bean (UO), Kent Neely (WOU), and Grant Kirby (IFS).

ACTION ITEMS

1. **Call to Order**

Chair Francesconi called the meeting of the Academic Strategies Committee to order at 1:04 p.m.

2. **Approval of January 2013 Minutes**

   **ACTION:** Directors Jill Eiland made the motion to approve the minutes and Jim Middleton seconded. Motion carried.

3. **Approvals/Action Items**

   - **SOU, B.A./B.S. in Emerging Media & Digital Arts**

     Chair Francesconi called upon Jim Klein, Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs, to provide background on the proposed program approval. Discussion centered on the proliferation of small and mid-sized business development in the areas of digital animation, gaming, social-media, and transition media content development and advertising. The program is interdisciplinary, utilizing faculty from fields like computer science and art, and aligns with workforce development and demand in the SOU region.

     **ACTION:** Directors Emily Plec made the motion to approve the Academic Program, and Brianna Coulombe seconded. Motion carried.

   - **2014-15 Admissions Policy**

     Chair Francesconi called on Joe Holliday, Assistant Vice Chancellor for Student Success Initiatives, to discuss proposed language modifications to the 2014-15 Admissions Policy. Discussion centered on institution specific changes to the freshman GPA requirement, as well as the process for reviewing applicants that do not meet the minimum threshold, and the strategies campuses use to ensure to support these students.
ACTION: Directors Emily Plec made the motion to approve the 2014-15 Admissions Policy, and Jill Eiland seconded. Motion carried.

- Board Diversity Goal
Chair Francesconi called upon Karen Marrongelle, Assistant Vice Chancellor for Academic Standards and Collaborations, to provide an overview of the development of the Board Diversity Goal. The Goal was created to bring a greater focus to diversity initiatives, specifically within the context of 40-40-20.

ACTION: Directors Jim Francesconi made the motion to approve the Board Diversity Goal, and Jill Eiland seconded. Motion carried.

DISCUSSION ITEMS
4. Excess Credits Work Group
Chair Francesconi opened the discussion on the Excess Credits Work Group by asking Karen Marrongelle to provide an update on the work to date. At the request of Chancellor Pernsteiner, Melody Rose, Vice Chancellor for Academic Strategies led a work group to study and develop a policy proposal that addressed student completion patterns and an assessment of excess credits. The Work Group recommendation notes that implementing this policy would have only applied to 726 students or 6% of OUS seniors graduating in 2012. Discussion centered on the potential administrative burden placed on campus advisors, as well as the impact of the policy on students that make changes to their educational pathway.

NEXT STEPS: The committee agreed that issue of excess credits warrants continued monitoring, but that no further action is required at the time.

5. 40/40/20 Strategies
Chair Francesconi opened the discussion on 40/40/20 Strategies noting that a coordinated, system-wide approach is necessary for reaching the statewide goal. Discussion centered on a possible Committee retreat, and how the feedback developed by campuses on their 40/40/20 assumptions will help to inform the work being conducted by President Donegan and Vice Chancellor Rose. After a lengthy discussion, it was agreed that the campuses will continue to work with resident experts on developing 40/40/20 assumptions and strategies for enhancing the pipeline with K-12 and community colleges.

NEXT STEPS: Campuses will continue to work on crafting 40/40/20 assumptions, and submit their findings to staff in advance of the April ASC meeting.

6. Campus Diversity Goals
Chair Francesconi opened the discussion on diversity by asking the provosts to provide a brief update on the activities campuses are using to advance diversity at their institution. The provosts emphasized that each campus experiences diversity differently, and institutional activities ought to be determined by the needs of their regional demographics. In addition, Chair Francesconi called on the provosts to provide feedback on the templates provided by Committee staff. It was agreed that
faculty and staff data should be further refined by removing graduate students from the total headcount since they are included in the student enrollment category.

**NEXT STEPS:** Provosts will report to ASC on their self-identified diversity goals at the March ASC meeting and seek feedback from the Committee on further action.

**INFORMATIONAL ITEMS**

7. **WICHE- INTERSTATE COURSE EXCHANGE**

Chair Francesconi called upon Karen Marrongelle to provide the committee with an overview of the WICHE- Interstate Course Exchange (ICE). The ICE program functions as a commodities market, allowing campuses to purchase seats for students in courses offered by other participating institutions. In turn, campuses may also enroll students from other campuses to fill seats in classrooms that are not at capacity, as well as provide opportunities for student to take courses in other academic areas where institutional capacity is limited. The campuses elected to enroll in this program as a system, opposed to individually in order to see cost savings.

8. **CREDIT FOR PRIOR LEARNING TASK FORCE**

Chair Francesconi called on Karen Marrongelle to provide an update on the Credit for Prior Learning Task Force. Melody Rose has convened a system-wide group of faculty to wrestle with emerging trends and alternative learning environments for students, specifically as it relates to assessing Credit for Prior Learning and Massively Open Online Courses (MOOCs). The policy proposal is currently under review by the task force and will be shared with the Provost Council at the April meeting, with a final proposal advance for Committee consideration in May.

9. **MANAGING STUDENT DEBT**

Chair Francesconi directed Joe Holliday, Assistant Vice Chancellor for Student Success Initiatives to update the committee on the Managing Student Debt Initiative. It was reported that student loan debt has outpaced that of consumer credit card debt, and that uncovering strategies manage costs and help educate students on responsible borrowing is critical. As a result of the recession more students are borrowing dollars to finance their education, and in greater amounts—this phenomenon is compounded as many student are underemployed or unemployed after graduation. In response to this trend, the System Office has convened financial aid and enrollment officers to look at the impact student loan debt has had on campuses and student completion, review high impact practices and national models, and suggest strategies to assist students. In addition, the system office has started planning a Student Debt and Affordability Conference with the intent of bringing statewide awareness to this issue, and work with practitioners on implementing high impact strategies on campus.
10. **Assessment Updates**

Chair Francesconi called on Karen Marrongelle to review the work on the Degree Qualifications Profile (DQP) and the Multistate Assessment Collaborative. Currently, Oregon continues to be a model for other states that are looking at DQP. Funding from the Lumina Foundations has helped staff to shore up the framework that articulates what students know, and what they are able to do at the associate’s, bachelor’s and graduate level—particularly at the associate’s and bachelor’s degree level in Oregon. In addition, the System Office continues to work with WICHE and our local stakeholders on the Multistate Assessment Collaborative. As a model, Massachusetts has developed a collaborative that assesses student learning outcomes at the undergraduate level. Currently, eight states are involved, and the System Office is committed with the support of the Inter-Institutional Faculty Senate and other stakeholders to this project, as it will be leading the country in this work.

**Other Items**

11. No other items were put forward by the committee

12. **Adjournment**

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:31 p.m.