MINUTES

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

Chancellor’s staff present: Karen Marrongelle, Bridget Burns, Rod Johnson, Laura McKinney, Melody Rose, Di Saunders, Bruce Schafer, Anna Teske, and Charles Triplett.

Campus representatives present: Steve Adkison (EOU), Brad Burda (OIT), Sona Andrews and Jilma Meneses (PSU), Jim Klein (SOU), Steve Scheck (WOU), and David Robinson (OSHU).

**ACTION ITEMS**

1. **CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Francesconi called the meeting of the Academic Strategies Committee to order at 2:15 p.m.

2. **APPROVAL OF MARCH 27TH MINUTES**

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

3. **CONSIDERATION OF BOARD POLICY ON STUDENT LOAN DEBT MANAGEMENT**

Chair Francesconi called on Di Saunders, Director of Communications, to summarize the development of a policy on Student Loan Debt Management. In recent years, the number of students that use student loans and the amount of debt incurred has increased. In light of this trend, Oregon University System (OUS) staff convened a Working Group on Student Loan Management with representation from each OUS institutions. To date, the work has included summarizing current institutional practices that assist students manage student loan debt, and exercises that detail what campuses plan to do in the future, and what they would do with additional resources. It was pointed out that borrowing becomes a problem for some students when they assume debt that will cause a high debt-to income ratio, affecting students in low-paying professions; students who do not graduate; students that are unable to secure employment for an extended period of time following graduation; or students with little or no borrowing experience.
As a result of this work, staff recommends the State Board of Higher Education adopt the proposed policy on Student Loan Debt Management. The policy requires all OUS institutions to help students who borrow federal student loans to understand their rights and responsibilities regarding their student loan borrowing, debt, and repayment. In addition, the policy calls for additional support and programs beyond federally mandated counseling to assist students, especially those considered most at risk for default.

**ACTION:** Directors Jill Eiland made the motion to approve the Student Debt Management policy and David Yaden seconded. Motion carried.

**NEXT STEPS:** The policy on Student Loan Debt Management will be placed on the June 21, 2013, agenda for consideration of the full Board.

### INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

#### 4. **Credit for Prior Learning Update**

Chair Francesconi called upon Karen Marrongelle, Interim Vice Chancellor for Academic Strategies, to provide an overview of Systemwide work on Credit for Prior Learning (CPL). The CPL task force has crafted a policy recommendation, which is currently under review by the Provosts’ Council. This recommendation will act as a roadmap to major best practices and policy issues related to CPL. Discussion centered on how institutions can make CPL more transparent and understandable for students, and the importance of clarifying roles and responsibilities for faculty and staff. Concern was expressed about the impact CPL may have on degree quality, noting that the key to quality control rests in the modes of assessment utilized by the faculty.

**NEXT STEPS:** Staff will work with the Provosts’ Council to finalize feedback on the CPL Policy Framework, and offer a final policy recommendation for consideration at the June 20th ASC meeting.

#### 5. **Research Collaboratory Update**

Chair Francesconi provided a status update on funding for the proposed Research Collaboratory. It was noted that the likelihood of the proposal receiving funding is high, with estimates of $10.5 million allocated to the operating budget and $10 million in capital. In April, Governor Kitzhaber designated the Regional Accelerator Innovation Network (RAIN), as an Oregon Solutions project, with the intent of assisting technology start-ups by offering support that will promote collaborations through public-private partnerships, and advancing ideas and research that benefit both local economies and institutions.
**NEXT STEPS:** Chair Francesconi will continue to update the committee on an as needed basis.

**DISCUSSION ITEMS**

6. **CAMPUS WORK ON DIVERSITY AND 40-40-20**

Chair Francesconi called on Dr. Marrongelle to provide the committee with an update on campus diversity goals and 40-40-20 strategies. At the January 2013 meeting, the Academic Strategies Committee requested information from campuses around their diversity initiatives to address student and faculty/staff recruitment and retention. This type of reporting is meant to allow for both Systemwide- and campus-level review of institutional diversity goals. In addition, staff created a framework of state demographic data, including high school graduation rates, broken down by race and ethnicity. Discussion centered on the flat trend in public high school graduation rates, and the growing number of students of color. In addition, the committee agreed that there is considerable work to do to address the issue of retention, noting that the state has lost ground with African American and Hispanic students.

After a lengthy discussion, the committee offered its reaction to the draft diversity report, and requested feedback from the Provosts’ Council regarding institutional goals. Feedback included: the inclusion of a section addressing retention issues, transfer rates, more specificity about the types of problems and issues that need to be addressed in the report and tactics currently in use to help, and the development of a call to action that translates the report’s findings into action-oriented strategies. In addition, emphasis should be placed on collaborations at the middle and high school level, by creating a robust college going culture, and addressing unmet need.

The committee discussed the intersection of campus diversity goals and 40-40-20 noting that campuses will likely see a trend in enrollment diversification. Discussion pointed to the basic assumptions that should be made in order to serve all Oregonians, noting that the definition of Oregonian should be further refined, in part due to shifting demographics as a result of the state’s current economic conditions. It was agreed that staff should develop a definitions and general assumptions section in order to flesh out the intricacies of the 40-40-20 goal. Attention was drawn to capacity needs and how institutions may target resources toward strategies that will help achieve the state-wide goal. The committee agreed that campuses need to be prepared to enact strategies to meet 40-40-20 with or without additional fiscal resources, noting that some things may be achievable while others are not.

**NEXT STEPS:** Campuses will continue to work with staff to establish realistic stretch goals. The Academic Strategies Committee will consider campus diversity goals and strategies for achieving 40-40-20. The Committee will discuss a plan for presenting this work to the full Board in June.
OTHER ITEMS

7. **No other items were put forward by the committee**

8. **Adjournment**

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:31 p.m.