OREGON STATE BOARD OF HIGHER EDUCATION
MINUTES OF SPECIAL MEETING
(CONDUCTED BY TELEPHONE CONFERENCE CALL)

ROLL CALL

The special meeting of the State Board of Higher Education was called to order at 3:30 p.m. by President Les Swanson.

On roll call, the following answered present:

Dr. Herb Aschkenasy  Mr. Rob Miller
Mr. Bob Bailey        Mr. George Richardson
Ms. Diane Christopher Mr. Jim Willis
Mr. Richard Donahue   Ms. Janice Wilson
Mr. Les Swanson

Mr. Bobby Lee joined the meeting after roll call was taken.

INTERIM
PRESIDENT,
WOSC

Chancellor Joseph Cox recommended the appointment of Dr. Bill Cowart, Provost at Western Oregon State College, as interim president. The minimum term of office would be August 15, 1994 through August 30, 1995. Dr. Cowart’s salary would be $93,180, with $9,084 for expenses incidental to position. He would also be given use of a state vehicle and the president’s home, to be used at his discretion.

The search for a permanent president would be scheduled to begin in spring 1995, with the intention of having a president in place by September 1995 or January 1996.

Mr. Donahue moved and Mr. Richardson seconded that the Board approve the recommendation to appoint Dr. Bill Cowart as interim president of Western Oregon State College, effective August 15, 1994. On roll call, the following voted in favor: Directors Aschkenasy, Bailey, Christopher, Donahue, Lee, Miller, Richardson, Willis, Wilson, and Swanson. Those voting no: none.

Ms. Christopher asked if the campus was comfortable with the recommendation. Dr. Cox responded that Dr. Cowart has been provost for ten years and, as such, has been involved in sensitive issues. Therefore, this recommendation does not have unanimous support from every sector of the campus community. Some on the campus would have opted to choose an interim president from the four candidates selected by the nominating committee.
The Chancellor summarized his reasoning for recommending Dr. Cowart for the position. Western Oregon State College is losing a number of its top leadership team -- president, provost, dean of administration, and dean of education. Dr. Cowart has a proven track record as a higher education administrator, including 15 years as a president in Texas. He has a long history in the area and within the institution and he brings an understanding of the culture and institutional memory to the position, easing the transition.

Mr. Swanson indicated that the nominating committee hadn't considered Dr. Cowart for the position because they had not realized he would be willing to stay; however, it is a positive decision because he is familiar with the campus and the State System. Dr. Aschkenasy applauded the thoughtful recommendation of Dr. Cox. He and Ms. Wilson asked about the timeframe within which to complete a presidential search. The Chancellor responded that presidential search policy had been streamlined, and this would allow a test of that policy, with room for modifications if the process was still too lengthy to be effective.

ADJOURNMENT The meeting adjourned at 4:15 p.m.

Virginia L. Thompson
Secretary of the Board

Les Swanson, Jr.
President of the Board