Committee members present: Kerry Barnett, Roger Bassett, Leslie Lehmann (arrived 7:37), Jim Lussier, and Erin Watari (arrived 7:36).

Chancellor’s Office staff: Shirley Clark, Virginia Thompson, and Diane Vines

Presidents: Dave Frohnmayer (UO) and Paul Risser (OSU)

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:34 a.m. by Chair Roger Bassett, and roll was called by Interim Board Secretary Thompson.

Approval of July 19, 2002, Meeting Minutes

It was moved by Director Lussier and seconded by Director Bassett that the minutes of the July 19, 2002, meeting of the System Strategic Planning Committee be approved as presented.


Action Item

OSAC’s Three Biennia Plan to Enhance the Oregon Opportunity Grant Program

Vice Chancellor Clark introduced David McDonald, Director of Enrollment Services, and Grattan Kerans, Director of Government Relations, to discuss the Oregon Student Assistance Commission’s (OSAC) Three Biennia Plan. Mr. McDonald indicated that the Opportunity Grant Program has been built on two sources of income: an initial General fund allocation and, more recently, lottery fund revenues. The Opportunity Grant Program is the primary vehicle by which students in Oregon receive need-based aid from the state. Now there is a crisis because of the lack of funding.

It was pointed out that the problems have been exacerbated because of greater demand for aid at the same time there has been a serious lack of financial support from the state. This lack of support was made worse by the recent passage of Measure 19
which resulted in approximately half the funding being moved to support K-12. At the present time there are over 13,000 students eligible for the Opportunity Grant who will receive no funding, due to lack of resources. A second result is that the average dollar amount of the award has decreased to the point where the Grants cover only 11 percent of the tuition and fees of students.

Mr. Kerans explained there was an immediate need to create a united front among all of those who advocate for students, whether they be public or private, two year or four year. “We have offered the OSAC the support and advocacy of the Board of Higher Education to join with the Oregon Independent Colleges Association, the Oregon Community Colleges Association, the Oregon Student Association, and others to advance the funding for the Opportunity Grant.” Continuing, Mr. Kerans said that the goal of OSAC is to improve the state ranking on affordability of higher education in Oregon by extending a grant to all of those who are eligible. The level of funding required is in the range of $27 million in the first biennium. Mr. Kerans indicated there us little hope of achieving that level of funding, given the conditions of the state budget, but that was the target.

Director Barnett asked how the OSAC initiative fit with “The Deal” that the Board was considering. Mr. Kerans responded that it was a perfect fit in the area of affordability. More specifically, Mr. Barnett wondered if conversations about the OSAC initiative were separate or a component of it. “It has been in our conversations with the legislators,” Mr. Kerans reported. “We can talk about access, but without the means, it doesn’t get us anywhere. It is complementary.” Director Bassett concurred with Mr. Kerans’ assessment.

Director Lussier added that at some point, the Board needs to establish a goal for the level of student assistance the state wants to meet and a benchmark by which to measure where it is in comparison to other states.

Director Lehmann questioned where in the budget process the OSAC request would appear. Mr. Kerans responded that it would be in the OSAC’s presentation to the Education Subcommittee of the Ways and Means, the same Committee that the System would be working with on the total budget. It was highlighted by Mr. Bassett that very few policy connections are made at the Ways and Means Subcommittee level between the need, how it is presented, how much is requested, and how it connects to the rest of the budget requests. There was general agreement that the presentation of the OSAC request is a good example of how to get the policies of one jurisdiction connected to those of another.

It was moved by Director Lussier and seconded by Mr. Barnett that the SSP Committee recommend to the full Board, approval of the staff recommendation.

Consent Items

OHSU, Graduate Certificate, Healthcare Management

Vice Chancellor Clark indicated that this program is the first that has come to the Board from the Oregon Graduate Institute (OGI) School of Science and Engineering at Oregon Health and Science University. She highlighted that the program is designed to meet the needs of health care professionals, particularly in management and business roles.

It was moved by Director Lehmann and seconded by Mr. Lussier that the SSP Committee recommend approval of the staff recommendation to authorize Oregon Health and Science University to establish a program leading to the graduate certificate in Healthcare Management. The program would be effective fall term 2002.


EOU, B.A./B.S., Media Arts

The interdisciplinary program request from Eastern Oregon University was briefly described by Vice Chancellor Clark. It was described as a reconfiguration of existing courses and areas of strength of EOU. An extensive survey and investigation of labor statistics was conducted by EOU to determine what the employment field is like in the media arts area. They determined that the prospects for students who graduate with the degree in Media Arts would be quite good. This program would be offered beginning in the winter term, 2003.

It was moved by Director Lehmann and seconded by Mr. Lussier that the SSP Committee recommend approval by the full Board of the staff recommendation to authorize Eastern Oregon University establish a program leading to the B.A./B.S. in Media Arts, effective winter term 2003.


Consideration of Nominations to the Forest Research Laboratory Advisory Committee, OSU

The names and positions of two members of the Forest Research Laboratory Advisory Committee at OSU were presented for Board approval per ORS 526-225.

Director Lehmann moved and Director Lussier seconded the motion that the SSP Committee recommend the Board approve the recommendations of positions to the Forest Research Laboratory Advisory Committee.

Discussion Item

Strategic Planning Process

Director Bassett reminded the members of the Committee that the full discussion of the Report of the Strategic Planning Work Group Report would occur in the full Board Work Session. He briefly outlined the Report and the presentation of it that would be made jointly by Chancellor Richard Jarvis, members of the Chancellor’s staff, and himself. A connection was made between some discussions that were a part of the Renewal in July and the elements of “The Deal” and the flexibility initiatives. “The Deal,” Mr. Bassett said, “is still a work in progress and most of the questions I have had from Board members and others reflect differences between how ‘The Deal’ is described and the specifics of the flexibility initiatives.”

Continuing, Mr. Bassett pointed out that he had received questions about how the RAM model and its flexibility, or lack of it, match the flexibility initiatives. He expressed support for testing the Board’s engagement on “The Deal” and of the kinds of policies and actions required to reach agreements.

Director Lehmann indicated that for her it was extremely important that Board members have the tools they need to communicate and advocate effectively for the initiatives in the Report.

“It is,” according to Director Lussier, “equally as important for the Strategic Planning Committee to remind the Board that even if the System got ‘The Deal,’ that’s not the end of it. We have some long-term problems that have occurred over the years and it is going to take us a long time to work on them. But establishing some goals in specific areas like access, costs, institutional excellence, and systems design is really fundamental to creating a new context into which these other shorter term issues go.”

Chair Bassett concluded the discussion by indicating there is a need to set a six month or so decision agenda, taking on the big issues one at a time in a rolling agenda. “At a first meeting, for example, we could have a general discussion among ourselves on one of the topics; get comfortable with the elements of the policy in terms of our own life experiences. The second meeting we would move to have staff work presented to us based on our earlier consideration on the item and we would have the general discussion of the next item. At the third meeting we’d move to take action on the recommendations on the first item, receive staff reports on the second, and introduce the third topic. We would continue to do this in the three or four major policy areas,” Mr. Bassett concluded.
Adjournment

It was moved by Mr. Lussier and seconded by Ms. Lehmann to adjourn the meeting.

Those voting in favor of the motion were: Directors Barnett, Bassett, Lussier, Lehmann, and Watari. Those voting no: none.

The meeting adjourned at 8:16 a.m.