



---

# Post-Secondary Quality Education Commission

## Meeting Minutes

### June 29, 2009

**Members Present:** Ed Ray (co-chair), Morgan Anderson (by phone), Roger Bassett, Jerry Berger, Frank McNamara, Gretchen Pierce, Richard Schwarz, Tony Van Vliet

**Others Present:** Connie Green, Nancy Heiligman, Joe Holliday, Ruth Keele, Bill McGee, Ann McLaughlin, George Pernsteiner, Cam Preus, James Sager, Susan Weeks, and others

Chair Ed Ray asked James Sager to give the Commission a brief summary of the legislative session. Sager gave a brief summary and stated the request for funds to assist the Commission were not included in the final budget. Ray commented that the Commission members will do what they can to support the efforts of the Commission in accomplishing its goals.

Ed Ray stated Senate Bill 906 created a Task Force on Increasing the Numbers of Oregon Students in Post-Secondary Education. In addition, Senate Bill 442 requested that the Joint Boards of Education conduct a study regarding the transition from a quarter system to a semester system, a study to increase student enrollment and student success for rural communities, and a study to evaluate the merging of enrollment management functions. Ray asked Sager how the Commission could support the efforts of SB 906 and SB 442. Sager stated it is unclear how the Commission could support the efforts of these bills, but the Legislature's goal is to understand higher education in Oregon. Sager stated government needs to connect with the public to encourage and educate them about the role of postsecondary education.

Susan Weeks gave an overview of the challenges for OUS in achieving 40% 40% 20% goal including student participation and success challenges presented by the growth in Oregon's Hispanic/Latino population, participation and educational delivery to rural and other underserved populations of Oregon, retention of students through degree completion, ensuring quality learning to meet citizenship and employment needs. Morgan Anderson asked if higher education is tracking reasons students choose not to attend postsecondary education. Weeks indicated that OUS conducted a study, Where Have Oregon's Graduates Gone?, which surveyed 2005 high school graduates. She also indicated that high school graduates are tracked through a first year study. Anderson recommended communicating the results of the study more broadly.

Connie Green gave an overview of the challenges for Oregon's community colleges in achieving 40% 40% 20% goal. She indicated there are five challenges including: increase percentage of the Latino population, age 18-44, with a high school diploma or equivalent; reduce the percentage of Oregonians with "some college, no degree" by focusing on those with some credits but not now in Postsecondary Education (PSE) as a basis for ideas like expanded certification; retention, separate from "some college, no degree" in its focus on the internal practices needed to lead students to successful completion while they are enrolled; increase enrollment intensity in the first year to address impact of limited course enrollment per term on eventual degree completion in community colleges; college-going rate, as an anchor for Commission discussion of proposals for expediting the high school-college transition.

The Commission discussed the role of employers in assisting the Commission with the definition of the middle 40%. Ed Ray asked that at the next meeting the Commission discuss the

acceptable components of the middle 40% to assist in the development of a definition. In addition, he recommended the Commission discuss the next steps for work over the course of the year.

Gretchen Pierce gave a brief outline of the work for the Quality Education Goals Subcommittee including an assessment of the middle 40% and communication. Richard Swarz stated the Faculty and Program Quality Subcommittee intends to hire a graduate student to assist with gathering qualitative research. Ed Ray asked that the graduate student attend the September Commission meeting to discuss the work of the Faculty and Program Quality Subcommittee.

**Summary of Action Items:**

- Cam Preus agreed to distribute a chart to the Commission that outlines economic and public investment and the relation to enrollment.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:15 p.m.