1. **STEM Course-taking and Achievement Project**

Ben Castleman from the University of Virginia made a powerpoint presentation on how his research foundation for OUS STEM Text Messaging Project will help the campuses. The research team would focus on helping students and families navigate complex postsecondary decisions and processes on whether and where to apply to college, completing tasks required for matriculation, choosing which courses or majors to pursue, and access academic/social supports on campus. They would provide funding to support costs associated with the intervention; a text-messaging platform to automate message delivery to students; behavioral expertise to develop the message content and technical support for project data collection and management, along with interim and final evaluation reports; and on-going support and guidance for institutions that want to adopt and sustain the text messaging system beyond the life of the project. Should the institutions join, they would ask the partner institutions for their (a) willingness to collect students’ cell phone numbers and consent to message them; (b) de-identified student-level data necessary to evaluate the impact of the messages on student outcomes; (c) identification of existing staff to whom students can be directed for assistance if they request help; (d) openness to research design that will allow the research team to identify the unique impact of the messages on students’ STEM outcomes; and (e) letters of commitment for grant solicitation.
Action: Provosts are to respond to Co-chair Marrongelle by December 20th on whether they want their campuses to participate in the STEM project.

2. Off-Site External Review Process for PSU and OHSU

Provost Andrews and Executive Vice Provost Robinson reported on how the process went for their graduate programs on doing the external review virtually versus on-site. Both of them agreed that the process went smoothly and found some advantages in doing it; e.g., cost saving, better quality reviewers, and time saving. Provost Andrews indicated that the reviewers said they were able to read the materials in advance and come up with questions, and it gave them time to be reflective of the program. Some of the disadvantages were not getting to know the reviewers as well as if they had been on-site; the information received was solely focused on the review of the program; and reviewers were directed to answer questions but did not have the kind of dialogue that could be helpful (not negative – just a downside). Both PSU and OHSU were very supportive that virtual external reviews are the way to go in some cases.

3. Common Course Numbering Legislative Draft Report

Joe Holliday, Assistant Vice Chancellor for Student Success, reported that the Common Course Numbering House Bill 2979 report will be going forward to the HECC for their approval later this month. Follow-up: On November 19th, HECC unanimously accepted and approved the Common Course Numbering report. Donna Lewelling from HECC indicated that they intend to consider the recommendations in the report as they work to complete their strategic plan.

4. WICHE State Authorization Reciprocity Agreement

Provost Andrews presented the WICHE State Authorization Reciprocity Agreement (W-SARA), and indicated that she is a member of W-SARA and was also on the original reciprocity drafting team. W-SARA is a voluntary initiative that will make distance education more accessible to students across state lines, as well as make it easier for states to regulate and institutions to participate in interstate distance education. For institutions, meeting the patchwork of regulatory demands from 50 states and U.S. territories and seeing authorization from each one in which they operate is not just difficult, it is costly and time-consuming and uses resources that could better be spent meeting the national goal of helping students learn and graduate. Provost Andrews indicated that a WICHE Regional Forum on W-SARA will be held on December 10th to inform WICHE members about the roles and responsibilities of state agencies/institutions under the W-SARA agreement. It will also provide information to help states determine their interest and readiness to join W-SARA. She will be attending the Forum and said she is happy to take back any concerns or questions the provosts may have. Discussion followed. Follow-up: Provost Andrews e-mailed the provosts additional information on W-SARA and the Forum on 11/8/13.
5. Credit for Prior Learning Standards Update

Joe Holliday, Assistant Vice Chancellor for Student Success, indicated that the university input into the Credit for Prior Learning Standards is due by December 20th. The institutions were supposed to have created teams on their campuses to review the draft standards and report, and supply feedback to the HECC CPL Committee by December 5th. At this time, they have only received feedback from a few institutions. Joe will send out a reminder for campuses to respond. Follow-up: On December 4th, HECC approved the Credit for Prior Learning report to go forward to the Legislature. They asked that the timeline in the report be accelerated, as shown on page 5 of the report.

6. New Program Proposals

- **PSU – External Review for the Ph.D. in Health Systems and Policy**
  
  Action: The Provosts’ Council approved the Health Systems and Policy doctoral external review report. Provost Klein made the motion and Provost Adkison seconded it; motion carried. The program will move forward to the Board’s Academic Strategies Committee for its review/approval at their November 2013 meeting. Materials for the ASC docket and notification to the Office of Degree Authorization have already been submitted. PSU will need to send the full program proposal to NWCCU for their review.

- **PSU – External Review for the Ph.D. in Community Health**
  
  Action: The Provosts’ Council approved the Community Health doctoral external review report. Vice President Scheck made the motion and Provost Randhawa seconded it; motion carried. The program will move forward to the Board’s Academic Strategies Committee for its review/approval at their November 2013 meeting. Materials for the ASC docket and notification to the Office of Degree Authorization have already been submitted. PSU will need to send the full program proposal to NWCCU for their review.

- **OHSU – External Review for the Ph.D. in Epidemiology**
  
  Action: The Provosts’ Council approved the Epidemiology doctoral external review report. Provost Andrews made the motion and Vice President Scheck seconded it; motion carried. The program will move forward to the Board’s Academic Strategies Committee for its review/approval at their November 2013 meeting. Materials for the ASC docket and notification to the Office of Degree Authorization have already been submitted. PSU will need to send the full program proposal to NWCCU for their review.

- **OHSU – New Location: Accelerated Baccalaureate of Science in Nursing at Ashland**
  
  Action: The Provosts’ Council approved the Accelerated Baccalaureate of Science in Nursing to be delivered on the Southern Oregon University campus in Ashland. Provost Klein made the motion and Provost Randhawa seconded it; motion carried. Notification to the Office of Degree Authorization will need to be submitted. No Board’s Academic Strategies Committee action is required. OHSU will need to submit the ODA notification write-up to NWCCU for their information.
7. Next Meeting

The next meeting of the OUS Provosts’ Council will be on December 9, 2013 from 1:00-2:30 p.m. This meeting can be taken either by videoconference or in-person at the Portland Chancellor’s Office. The Board’s Academic Strategies Committee meeting originally scheduled for December 5th was cancelled.