OUS Provosts’ Council Meeting  
April 6, 2006  
Minutes

The OUS Provosts’ Council met on April 6, 2006 from 12 noon to 3:00 p.m. in Room 381, Biomedical Research Building at Oregon Health and Science University.

Attendees: Dave Woodall, Chair, OIT; Lorraine Davis, UO, Lesley Hallick and Bob Vieira, OHSU; Roy Koch and Terry Rhodes, PSU; John Miller, EOU; Earl Potter, SOU; Sabah Randhawa, OSU; Jem Spectar, WOU; Sarah Andrews-Collier, IFS; George Pernsteiner, Susan Weeks, Ruth Keele, Mark Endsley, Robert Mercer, and Helen Stampe, OUS. Guest: Edward Neuwelt, M.D.

1. Approval of March Minutes and April Agenda
The minutes of the March 2, 2006 meeting were approved as presented. The agenda for the April meeting was approved, with several items added.

2. Chancellor’s Report
Chancellor George Pernsteiner reported on the following items:

(a) Background checks: This issue had generated considerable variation of campus sentiment. Jay Kenton had developed a Board policy that will allow campus variation in implementation.

(b) Quarterly Financial Report: The Board discussion will include funding of enrollment lines, expected fund balances and budget reduction processes.

(c) Tabor Amendment: This amendment may be on the fall ballot and would likely lead to reduction in funding for higher education. George will also be addressing this issue with the Presidents Council.

(d) Textbooks: Jim Gardner, lobbyist for the American Publishers Association, is working with the Oregon Advocacy Center as well as the National Alternative Format Solutions Initiative. Jim would like to involve OUS in the discussions with the Advocacy Center and has asked for a contact person. The cost of textbooks is a major concern for faculty and students, thus the provosts were asked to recommend a contact to represent them in these discussions.

3. Update on Retention Policy Package
The provosts are developing a retention policy package for review at the May Council meeting. It will provide flexibility for campus-based pilot efforts with the stipulation that there will be appropriate performance measures identified. Sabah Randhawa will take the lead in drafting the policy package in collaboration with Jem Spectar.

Susan Weeks recommended using common measures of success for the pilot projects. George suggested that first year retention would likely work for many campus efforts; if we show a goal of measurable improvement cutting across multiple campuses, that should be acceptable.
The review of draft policy packages was discussed. George asked the provosts to recommend improvements or identify “fatal flaws.” It was agreed that the May Council meeting would include the review of policy packages identified by the Chancellor’s Office.

4. **Board Long-Range Planning**
Susan Weeks distributed background material that will be discussed at the Board long-range planning work session on April 24. She will be e-mailing the provosts/presidents for updates or modifications of the materials.

5. **OHSU Injury Prevention Program**
Dr. Edward Neuwelt, Professor of Neurology and Neurosurgery at OHSU presented *Think First*, a program to help children and teens develop lifelong safety habits. The goal is to minimize their risk of sustaining brain, spinal cord, or other traumatic injuries. Dr. Neuwelt recommended sharing this proposal with college-age students. There was agreement that this was important to the campuses and should be shared with the Students Affairs Council, ICAR committee, and other groups.

6. **Customer Service and DAS Performance Measures**
Ruth Keele presented information about the DAS customer service performance measures that are now required of all state agencies. OUS institutions are required to conduct surveys biennially using a standard set of six questions. It was noted in the discussion that this process would work best with service elements of each campus, such as registration or the financial aid office.

7. **OUS-Approved Internships**
Ruth Keele reported that OUS currently reports internship participation as both a state-level and board-level performance measure. Data are collected by conducting a system-wide survey of recent bachelor’s level graduates. She distributed current definitions guiding the collection of data and asked if changes were needed. In the discussion that followed, it was decided to retain the current broad definition but we should change “Internship” to something more description such as “Applied Out of Classroom Learning Experience.”

8. **Advanced Placement Policy**
Provosts reported on responses of their campuses to the advanced placement credit proposal. Robert Mercer is assembling a collective response for JBAC. Since there is substantial disagreement, the Council asked that Earl Potter provide a report for JBAC outlining a strategy to resolve the issues.

9. **Academic Program Proposals**
   **OSU – B.S. in Forest Operations Management**
   - Sabah Randhawa reported that this degree is designed as a professional degree that blends elements of the existing OSU forest engineering and forest management degrees with business management and entrepreneurship coursework. Because of the existence of these other programs, it is a low cost degree.
   - The Council consensus was to recommend the program for approval to the Board. The program should proceed with the ODA notification process.
PSU – B.A./B.S. in Environmental Studies
- Roy Koch reported that the proposed major is interdisciplinary, encompassing the social and natural sciences. The emphasis is on the acquisition of content and skills that will prepare students to understand challenges faced in mitigating human impact on the environment.
- The Council consensus was to recommend the program for approval to the Board. The program should proceed with the ODA notification process.

Dave recommended that we have a Council discussion of competition, complementarity, and cooperation related to both graduate and undergraduate levels. Others agreed this would be a good topic to pursue.

10. Program Name Changes
OSU – Sabah Randhawa informed the Council of the following degree name change:
- B.S., M.S., Ph.D., M.Ag., and M.A.I.S. degrees and Undergraduate and Graduate Minors in Rangeland Resources to Rangeland Ecology and Management

PSU – Roy Koch informed the Council of the following degree name change:
- B.A./B.S. in Environmental Studies to Environmental Science

Without objection, these name changes were approved as submitted.

11. Other Items
- **Provosts’ Council Charge:** It was requested that Lorraine Davis bring a revised version of the Council’s charge with changes made in earlier discussions.
- **Academic Program Database:** There was discussion on the importance of the program database currently on the OUS website. It was decided that OUS will maintain and update the database on a regular basis, using information that is already available in minutes of the Provosts’ Council and Board meetings. As part of her responsibilities to the Provosts’ Council, Helen Stampe will be the administrator for the database and will require the assistance of the OUS webmaster.
- **GARP Position:** There was a status report on the search for the Senior Policy Associate for Graduate, Academic, and Research Affairs (GARP). A search committee has been formed and there was consensus that a provost should be on that committee. Dave will discuss this with Ben Rawlins; Helen will forward a copy of the job description to provosts when it is available.

12. Next Meeting
The next meeting of the Provosts’ Council will be held on May 4, 2006 at Portland State University from 12 noon to 3:00 p.m.

Prepared by H. Stampe / Reviewed by D. Woodall