On June 3, 2004, the provosts of the OUS schools and OHSU held a Provosts’ Council meeting during the regular meetings of the Oregon State Board of Higher Education in Ashland. The meeting was held from 11:00 a.m. until noon in Room 220 of Churchill Hall on the campus of Southern Oregon University.

Attendees: Lorraine Davis, Chair, UO; John Miller, EOU; John Minahan, WOU; John Moseley, UO; Earl Potter, SOU; Mary Kay Tetreault, PSU; Dave Woodall, OIT; and Sam Connell, OHSU (representing Lesley Hallick). Tim White, OSU Provost, was unavailable due to recent surgery.

The meeting included initial discussions on the operation of the Provosts’ Council under the new administrative structure of OUS, as approved by the Board this spring. The Provosts’ Council will hold a second meeting on June 24, 2004 in Portland to continue to develop operational plans to present to the Board on meeting our academic affairs obligations.

As noted in the structure approved by the Board, the membership of the OUS Provosts’ Council consists of the provosts of the OUS schools and OHSU. A member of the Provosts’ Council will be elected annually by the membership to serve as chair and to lead the Council for the year to meet its mandate from the Board. Since the chair of the Council will have both organizational and reporting responsibilities that will require assistance, the Council will request in its operational plan that a Council operating budget of $50,000 be available to the elected chair each year. The provosts unanimously selected Lorraine Davis, UO Vice President for Academic Affairs, to become the first chair of the new Provosts’ Council beginning July 1, 2004. We also asked her to develop the agenda for operational process planning and to lead the meeting scheduled for June 24.

Another item of business for the Provosts’ Council was the request for a progress report by the Board’s Excellence in Productivity and Delivery (EPD) Working Group. Specifically the EPD chair requested a progress report on actions by each of the institutions in seven areas of focus by the June 11, 2004 meeting of the Working Group. The Provosts’ Council discussed actions we have each taken in response, including a format for our responses. Lorraine provided us with a draft report of UO activities and we agreed to each follow the same format in our reports to EPD on June 11. We also discussed the status of a faculty-initiated planning effort for a general education certificate that could be issued by OUS. That certificate would represent a core of general education outcomes acceptable to each OUS school. It was noted that this proposal should be discussed with the academic leadership of the community colleges.

Following the meeting on June 24, the Provosts’ Council will present for Board approval recommended Provosts’ Council operational procedures and the process to address academic issues within OUS during the coming years.

Submitted by Dave Woodall