Statewide Provosts Council
Meeting Action Notes
October 2, 2014

Members: Sona Andrews, Chair, PSU; Frances Bronet, UO; Brad Burda, OIT; Jenny Mladenovic, OHSU; Sabah Randhawa, OSU; Steve Scheck, WOU; Susan Walsh, SOU; Sarah Witte, EOU

IFS Rep: Maude Hines, PSU
Staff: Helen Stampe, OUS
Guests: Juan Báez-Arévalo, Brian Fox, Donna Lewelling, HECC
Debbie Koreski, LAC; Charles Triplett, UO

1. Update on SARA
Juan Báez-Arévalo, HECC’s director of private postsecondary education, led a discussion on the status of the State Authorization Reciprocity Agreement (SARA), which is a voluntary agreement among its member states and U.S. territories that establishes comparable national standards for interstate offering of postsecondary distance education courses and programs. It is intended to make it easier for institutions to offer online courses in another state. Next steps are: Juan will be taking the draft institutional application form to the HECC full committee meeting for final approval; in turn, he will send the approved form to the Council members. If an institution wishes to join SARA, they need to do it as an individual campus and pay the fee directly to HECC.

2. Mission and Board Evaluation
Chair Andrews led a discussion on mission and board evaluation for the universities and indicated that she will prepare a letter on behalf of the Provosts Council to be sent to HECC from the Presidents Council on recommendations for university evaluation. She will send out a draft to the provosts and have them respond with changes. Update: The provosts responded in agreement with the draft letter; in turn, Sona sent the letter to the convener of the Presidents Council for review on 10/9/14.

3. HECC/OEIB Update
Donna Lewelling, HECC’s academic policy specialist, reported on the status of the interviews being held for a new Director of Academic Planning and Policy for HECC. This position will lead the Commission’s efforts to coordinate academic programs, degree pathways, and student success initiatives among Oregon’s public universities and community colleges, along with being HECC’s primary liaison to the university provosts and faculty groups. Donna indicated that the job search is on a fast track and three candidates have been
selected for the finalist round.  **Update:** Dr. Salam Noor has been appointed as the new director, beginning November 2014.

4. **Accelerated Learning Report Update**

Provost Burda presented a summary of concerns he prepared on the proposed legislation on accelerated learning in two categories: governance and fiscal impact. It was noted that the OEIB already submitted the Accelerated Learning report, Senate Bill 222, to the Legislature on October 1st. Due to the timeline, the concerns were not addressed in the report, but discussed fully at the P.C. meeting. **Follow-up:** Provost Burda e-mailed Chair Andrews on 10/10/14 indicating that Oregon Tech reviewed the report and was fine with the recommendations outlined on pages 17 and 18; however, it doesn’t appear as if the legislative concept changed and there are still some concerns, as follows:

- **Section 3a** – excludes online delivery. We think this is an access issue for rural students and should be allowed.
- **Section 4c** – implies that a teacher approved by one of the postsecondary institutions to teach one of their courses is also approved to teach that same course for other postsecondary institutions. Each university needs to be able to select their own faculty.
- **Section 4d** – talks about school districts paying postsecondary institutions at a minimum rate, maximum rate, or default rate. We recommend including the percentages discussed in the report as part of the legislation (minimum 15%, maximum 90%).

5. **Outcomes Based Funding Update**

Discussion was held on outcomes based funding led by Brian Fox, HECC’s budget and finance administrator, on the process of creating a new outcomes-based allocation model for the public university support fund. He indicated that he’s been working with Jeff Dense, IFS president, and representatives from the Oregon Student Association to develop a statement around quality that the Outcomes-Based Funding Technical Workgroup could support (Provosts Burda and Witte are on the Workgroup). Brian shared the first draft with the Council and indicated that the Workgroup had several suggestions. Next steps will focus on finalizing the metrics, the student sub-populations, ironing out data definitions, and construction and testing the new model. After basic construction of the model is complete, outcome weights will need to be assigned, along with recommendations for a phase-in schedule. It was noted that the timeline for the recommendations is December 2014. This topic will be discussed again at the November P.C. meeting.

6. **IFS Update**

Maude Hines reported on the Interinstitutional Faculty Senate (IFS) and indicated that she will start sharing future IFS agendas to help open up communication between the two groups. Topics for discussion will be on HECC’s report on the future of higher education in
Oregon; campus reports; textbook affordability; community course numbering; accelerated learning concerns; and tuition free community college proposal.

7. New Program Proposal

• OHSU – External Review on Master of Public Health in Environmental Systems and Human Health

  Action: The Provosts Council approved the external review report of the Environmental Systems and Human Health master’s program. Provost Randhawa made the motion and Provost Bronet seconded it; motion passed. It was noted that Provost Andrews abstained from voting due to PSU possibly having a joint program with OHSU in the future. This program does not need to go to HECC for review/approval. OHSU will need to notify NWCCU on their program.

8. Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Statewide Provosts Council will be held on November 6, 2014 from 9:00 a.m.-noon (Provosts Only will be 9:00-10:00; Regular session will be 10:00-noon). This meeting will be held in person at the Market Center Building at PSU. The next HECC Full Commission meeting will be October 9, 2014 in Eugene.