Q&A on Oregon University System Transition  
May 2014

Q1: Will the State Board of Higher Education continue as a Board after July 1, 2014?
A1: Yes. The Board will govern the four Technical/Regional (TRU) universities in the Oregon University System: Eastern Oregon University, Oregon Institute of Technology, Southern Oregon University, and Western Oregon University, pending any legislative changes, through June 30, 2015.

Q2: Will the name Oregon University System go away after June 30, 2014?
A2: The name “Oregon University System” currently remains in Oregon Revised Statutes and will consist of Eastern Oregon University, Oregon Institute of Technology, Southern Oregon University, Western Oregon University and the Office of the Chancellor as of July 1, 2014.

Q3: Will the Chancellor’s Office exist in name or function after June 30, 2014?
A3: The Office of the Chancellor continues to exist beyond June 30, 2014 to support the State Board of Higher Education and the technical/regional universities through June 30, 2015.

Q4: How will the State Board of Higher Education function be supported after June 30, 2014, and what will its authorities be?
A4: The State Board of Higher Education will continue to be supported by the Chancellor’s Office between July 1, 2014 and June 30, 2015. The Board will govern the four technical/regional universities in the OUS and has authority to set tuition, develop budget requests to submit to the HECC, hire and evaluate the university presidents, among other authorities. New members will be appointed to the State Board in order to assist with a seamless transition.

Q5: Will the title of "Chancellor" go away after June 30, 2014?
A5: The Office of the Chancellor continues to exist, as does the statutory position of “Chancellor,” through June 30, 2015.

Q6: What types of authorities will the Higher Education Coordinating Commission (HECC) assume from the Chancellor’s Office and the State Board of Higher Education?
A6: House Bill 3120, which passed in the 2013 legislative session and amended the charge of the HECC, outlines specific duties for the newly constituted commission. The commission is now charged with making a comprehensive funding request to the Governor for all post-secondary institutions, allocating the appropriation that the legislature makes to these institutions, approving significant changes to academic programs, and, for the public universities, approving mission statements and degree programs. The HECC also assumes an advisory role with regard policy matters facing post-secondary institutions.

Q7: Will the public resources on the OUS website, such as information for prospective and transfer students, system-wide data and reports, and legislative resources for example, be available on another website after July 1, 2014?
A7: OUS has begun downsizing its website to reflect its functions after July 1, 2014. We are working with the HECC, the Shared Services Enterprise, and the campuses to provide relevant information for use on their websites if they wish to use it. The OUS website will no longer be accessible after July 1, 2015.
Q8: Will there still be a centrally located audit division for the seven universities similar to what exists now in the Chancellor’s Office?
A8: No. Internal Audit serves a university governance function and as such, each institution or collection of institutions with their own governing boards will have their own audit division.

Q9: What types of centralized services will be provided through the Shared Services Enterprise, and when will these begin?
A9: The Shared Services Enterprise will include payroll, retirement plan benefits, financial reporting, risk management, labor relations, cash and debt management, and possibly others to be shared among the seven universities. These are services that are already being provided to the seven universities and we anticipate a seamless transition without service interruption on or before July 1, 2014.

Q10: Will the institutional boards for Oregon State University, Portland State University, and University of Oregon have the same authorities as the State Board of Higher Education on July 1, 2014.
A10: No. While some authorities remain congruent, Senate Bill 270 which passed in the 2013 legislative session removed UO, OSU, and PSU from the many authorities conferred on the State Board of Higher Education and created a new scheme of authorities for those three institutions, which will also be relevant to EOU, OIT, SOU and WOU on July 1, 2015.

Q11: Will Oregon public higher education data still be collected and accessible in a central place, to fulfill both federal data requirements and systemic data on OUS performance, students, faculty, financial and other data?
A11: OUS is working with HECC to provide information on the many reporting functions currently performed by OUS, and some of the current OUS research function will directly support the HECC. The campuses will likely take on some of the reporting requirements and may elect to take on all reporting requirements. We also expect that HECC will continue to collect some data from all campuses. It is still to be determined if HECC or another entity(ies) will coordinate legislative data requests, etc.

Q12: Will OUS' relationship with community colleges change?
A12: Oregon’s public universities will continue to have very strong relationships with our community college partners in order to facilitate student transfer opportunities. With the HECC there to focus on post-secondary collaboration, there may be further advances in programs and services that serve student needs and lead to more degrees, and make progress toward the 40-40-20 goal.

Q13: Will the federally funded Oregon GEAR UP program continue to be administered by the Chancellor’s Office after July 2014?
A13: The Chancellor’s Office will be transferring the responsibility for GEAR UP to OSU later this year in 2014.

Q14: How will academic program approval currently done through the OUS Provosts’ Council and the State Board of Higher Education be done after July 1, 2014?
A14: The Chancellor’s Office has worked closely with the HECC to transition the program approval process and function envisioned by HECC and how the process will operate the same or differently from the current process.
Q15: How will the Engineering and Technology Industry Council be staffed and where will it be housed after July 1, 2014?

A15: Pursuant to House Bill 4020, ETIC no longer reports to the Oregon State Board of Higher Education and transitions to reporting to the Oregon Education Investment Board starting July 1, 2014, and extending through March 15, 2016 (when OEIB sunsets). The structure of the organization is currently being transitioned to one that will more closely serve the workforce needs of the state as well as the program capacity and quality needs of the campuses.

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