Statewide Provosts Council
Meeting Action Notes
December 4, 2014

Members: Sabah Randhawa, OSU, Acting Chair; France Bronet, UO; Brad Burda, OIT; Steve Scheck, WOU; Susan Walsh, SOU; Sarah Witte, EOU; Margaret Everett, PSU (for Sona Andrews) David Robinson, OHSU (for Jenny Mladenvoic);
IFS Rep: Maude Hines, PSU
Staff: Chuck Triplett, UO (for Helen Stampe, OUS)
Guests: Salam Noor, HECC; Donna Lewelling, HECC; Lita Colligan, LAC; Lisa Mentz, CCWD

1. Academic Quality

Discussion was held around the draft Academic Quality paper that Provost Andrews submitted to the provosts via e-mail on 12/3/14. It was noted that the paper covers all areas except one: suggestion to add “regional and professional accreditation” (i.e., program accreditation). Question was raised on whether this has the quality of faculty or quality of program. It should be “quality of faculty” and suggestion was added to flesh out the examples currently covered by “etc.” It was also noted that #7 and #8 are currently included in achievement compacts and should probably be imbedded in with “Academic Program Review.” Also on advisory boards, question was asked on whether we should expand this to include professional and practitioners? Agreement was to expand advisory board bullet to include examples of functions performed by such boards. Action: Provost Randhawa will capture these suggestions, revise the paper, and send it to the provosts for comment (draft sent via e-mail on 12/5/14).

2. Mission Alignment

It was noted that some time ago the Board of Higher Education requested a mission alignment document of three “goal” matrices: access, programs, and innovation/research. Question was raised on how each institution contributes to these three areas. HECC has expressed interest in revisiting this work as a potential framework for mission approval, program approval, and evaluation. Provosts suggested updating the dated matrices and aligning them in a “meaningful way” to the proposed purpose as appropriate. It was the consensus of the Council that they should hear what HECC needs and respond accordingly. Many institutions have changed their core themes and mission goals since 2012 and will need to review them again. Action: A small subgroup was formed – Interim Provost Witte, EOU, volunteered to take the lead; Provost Burda, Oregon Tech, will represent the historical perspective; and Acting Provost Bronet, UO, will represent a new voice. They requested that Ben Cannon be involved in the first meeting.
3. **Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities (NWCCU)**

Provost Randhawa led a discussion on changes in the accreditation process. He indicated that the NWCCU representatives are interested in coming to meet with the Provosts Council and possible meetings with HECC. Questions were raised regarding cost of new fees and what the fee “substantive change” includes (e.g., online course offerings). This may become a financial and/or workforce burden, and, as members, what service are we receiving these fees for? The Council agreed that they should invite NWCCU to a future in-person meeting.

4. **IFS Update**

Maude Kerns, IFS representative, reported that the IFS group met at OIT Wilsonville last month and had visits from Ben Cannon, Salam Noor, and David Yaden. Discussion was held around textbook affordability; how missions will be integrated in the statewide system, and academic quality. Maude indicated that she communicated the Provosts Council’s interest in working with IFS and they were very supportive.

5. **Change in External Review Process**

Discussion was held regarding process change in the external review for graduate programs. In the previous process, once the program went through the Provosts Council in approving the program for external review, the campus would identify several reviewers and then submit them to the OUS and institution co-chairs to identify which ones to invite. Once the reviewers are selected and the external review report is submitted, the report would come back to the Provosts Council for approval before sending it on to the respective board for program approval. The new process would cut out that step and instead have the institution determine the three peer reviewers rather than relying on the P.C. co-chairs.

**Action:** It was the consensus of the Council that the institutions can conduct an external review prior to submitting the graduate proposal to the Statewide Provosts Council. The name and affiliation of the reviewers, the external review report, and the institutional response to the external review report – along with any change to the original proposal as the result of the review – will be attached to the proposal before submitting it to the Provosts Council for review/approval.

6. **Program Approval Process**

At the last P.C. meeting, there was desire to expedite the progress – to move a program from the Provosts Council to HECC Full Commission within the following week. Donna Lewelling indicated that HECC wants time to review the documents. It was suggested that the provosts may want to include HECC in a concurrent review before the proposal goes to the Full Commission.
7. New Program Proposal

- **PSU – Master of Public Policy**
  
  *Action:* The Provosts Council approved the Public Policy master’s program to move forward to the Oregon Higher Education Coordinating Commission (HECC) for its approval at their January 2015 meeting. Provost Scheck made the motion and Interim Provost Walsh seconded it; motion passed. The program was approved by the PSU Board of Trustees on November 7, 2014. Materials for the HECC docket will need to be submitted by December 18th. If approved by HECC Full Commission, PSU will need to notify NWCCU of their program.

8. HECC Updates

- **Governor’s Recommended Budget:** Discussion was held around the Governor’s Recommended Budget (GRB). It was noted that all postsecondary funding is rolled into the HECC budget; combined funding for public universities is greater than 2009-2011 biennium in a per student basis. Tuition buy down is included: total amount of buy down was approximately $61 million. A question was raised on how the GRB amount compares; HECC is in the process of analyzing it so they don’t have an answer right now.

- **ASOT in Computer Science:** The Provosts Council supported it; it will be moved from HECC Subcommittee to the Full Commission for consideration in December.

- **Credit for Prior Learning (CPL) – Legislative Report:** It was noted that PSU was selected as public university pilot. Work will continue into 2015 legislative session.

- **Textbook Affordability Survey:** All seven campuses were represented with strong input from PSU. Regional forums had good attendance and the data are being correlated now. Interest in statewide forum to discuss findings in the first part of January – many competing events, e.g., legislative session, start of terms, etc.

- **Graduate Education:** It was announced that Brenda McComb, OSU, and Allison Fryer, OHSU, will make a presentation on graduate education to HECC. Provosts Randhawa and Scheck will also be attending and begin the conversation, then introduce the graduate deans. Salam Noor indicated that the presentation is part of an informational series for the HECC Full Commission members.

- **Joint Meeting with CIA:** Provost Scheck asked if there is interest in having a joint meeting with the community colleges academic leaders. Salam Noor indicated that he will be having a meeting with the two chairs and will coordinate/facilitate conversation between the two groups.

9. Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Statewide Provosts Council will be held on January 8, 2015 from 9:00 a.m.-noon (Provosts Only will be 9:00-10:00; Regular meeting will be 10:00-noon). This meeting will be an in person meeting at the Market Center Building at PSU. The next HECC Full Commission meeting will be held the same day, January 8th, at PSU.