Oregon State Board of Higher Education

Special Meeting of the Full Board (#869)
July 19, 2013

MINUTES

Page

1. Call the Meeting to Order/Roll Call/Welcome ................................................................. 35
2. Action Item.......................................................................................................................... 35
3. Adjournment..................................................................................................................... 37
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Chancellor’s staff present included: Interim Chancellor Melody Rose, Ryan Hagemann, Joe Holliday, Jay Kenton, Karen Marrongelle, Patricia Snopkowski, Charles Triplett, Alice Wiewel, and Marcia Stuart.

Campus representatives included: Dr. Bob Davies (EOU), Dr. Chris Maples* (OIT), Dr. Ed Ray (OSU), and Dr. Wim Wiewel; Vice Presidents Jamie Moffitt* (UO) and Craig Morris* (SOU); Provost Steve Scheck* (WOU), Lita Colligan (OIT), Liz Shelby* (SOU), and Lois Davis and Alan Finn (PSU). Others present included: Bill McGee (DAS BAM), Mario Parker-Milligan (OSA), and Phil Lesch (PSU-AAUP).

*by phone

1. **CALL THE MEETING TO ORDER/ROLL CALL/WELCOME**

   President Donegan called the meeting to order at 9:33 a.m. and asked the Board Secretary to take the roll.

2. **DISCUSSION ITEM**

   a. **Legislative Reform Outcomes**

   President Donegan called upon Mr. Ben Cannon, education policy advisor to the Governor, to provide the Board with an update on legislative reform outcomes. Mr. Cannon provided an overview of the enrolled House Bill 3120 and Senate Bill 270, how it impacted the System and Board, and implementation timelines.¹ A common theme throughout the presentation was the importance of the work of this year for the Board and the Chancellor’s Office. With the considerable work to accomplish over the next year, Cannon conveyed the Governor’s appreciation for the commitment of the officers and members of the Board and the Chancellor’s staff to continue to provide oversight and responsibility for the seven public universities until July 1, 2014.

   SB 270 establishes institutional governing boards at Portland State University, and the University of Oregon with an option for Oregon State University, if the president chooses. The

   ¹ See materials listed under July 19, 2013 of http://www.ous.edu/state_board/meeting/dockets.
bill also creates a process for the presidents at the technical and regional universities (TRUs) to request to establish institutional governing boards from the Board of Higher Education between March 1, 2014 and June 1, 2015. Under the current legislation, the State Board of Higher Education will continue to govern the four TRUs until an alternate governance model is established. Mr. Cannon and board members discussed possible changes to the current State Board of Higher Education that would better represent the focus and governance on the TRU institutions.

Mr. Cannon described the creation and respective roles of the Special Committee on University Governance and Operations and the Work Group on University Shared Services created in SB 270. The Special Committee is a legislative committee made up of four senators, four representatives, and two OEIB members. The shared services work group is made up of the seven university presidents. Each group will continue to shape the reform through their work on university collaboration and shared services. A priority of the Governor throughout this process is to ensure, with all of the pending change, that opportunities for shared strategies, shared approaches, and coordination and integration of the postsecondary educational system to support student success at achieving degrees are not lost nor diminished. Particularly in the academic strategy and policy coordination that has been important to improving results for Oregon students (e.g., the development of the transfer modules with community colleges and student success initiatives). Much of the emphasis of the Oregon Education Investment Board (OEIB) and the Governor, in relation to achieving the 40-40-20 goals, has been ensuring that students’ experience education more seamlessly as they progress through the educational pipeline. Under this legislation, that authority and responsibility has been shifted to the Higher Education Coordinating Commission (HECC); however, some of the responsibilities may be voluntarily undertaken at the university level (e.g., Provosts’ Council) and some may need to be clearly articulated by the HECC or legislature as primary responsibilities and requirements of the institutions.

Time was spent discussing the next steps of the HECC as described in HB 3120, including the reappointment of commission members and the appointment of an executive director. By statute, the HECC will assume its new authorities on July 1, 2014. Unlike the current responsibilities of the State Board and Chancellor’s Office, the HECC does not have the authority of assessment or governance responsibilities relative to the universities. It was noted that the HECC is entirely funded through the state General Fund appropriation and start-up costs were not included in the legislation. The HECC will be guided by the overarching P-20 goals, outcomes, and strategies adopted by the OEIB, and the HECC executive director will report to the Governor and the Chief Education Officer.

Concern was expressed pertaining to the retention of Chancellor’s Office staff during an “extremely fluid and uncertain time.” With the loss of staff, the consequences of losing institutional memory, understanding of systems, and talent is very real. Mr. Cannon assured the Board that the Governor will attend closely to the issue and welcomes options to address the potential loss of staff to prevent adverse effects to the important work that needs to be accomplished over the course of the year and beyond. Director Middleton opined that, if this issue isn’t addressed by mid-October, the Chancellor’s Office may lose vital employees who will
be recruited by other organization. Dr. Rose advised that the Chancellor’s Office executive cabinet and Board leadership have been holding conversations on this issue and she expressed her appreciation for the Governor’s support for the Office. Once retention plan proposals are fully developed, they will be submitted to Board leadership for consideration.

Members discussed the responsibilities of the Board prior to July 2014 and in advance of budget deadlines. Cannon advised that it would depend on the issue. For example, development of the biennial budget request historically begins in the summer and fall following the prior legislative session. As such, this budget will be developed by the HECC (in conjunction with the OEIB) on the Governor’s behalf, even prior to assuming its full authorities. However, for tuition-setting, at present, it is unclear as to who will have the authority to set the tuition as the transition commences.

In conclusion, Mr. Cannon reiterated that the Governor appreciates the continued service of Board members in their present capacity until replacements are appointed or they are reappointed.

3. **ADJOURNMENT**

With no further business proposed, and with the early departure of President Donegan, Vice President Eiland adjourned the meeting at 10:44 a.m.