Committee members present: Chair Middleton, Brittany Kenison, Emily Plec, and David Yaden. Committee members absent: Jill Eiland and Jim Francesconi. 

Chancellor’s staff present: Karen Marrongelle, Anna Teske, Bob Kieran, Anji Duchi, and Helen Stampe.

Campus representatives present: Steve Adkison and Sarah Witte (EOU), Brad Burda (Oregon Tech), Sona Andrews (PSU), Jim Klein (SOU), Scott Coltrane (UO), Steve Scheck (WOU), David Robinson (OHSU), and Maude Hines (IFS).

Others present: Ben Manion, Corey Whitney, and Barb Conner (Oregon Tech)

1. Call to Order

Chair Middleton called the meeting of the Academic Strategies Committee to order at 1:09 p.m.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

2. Program Approvals Process for 2014-15

Chair Middleton called on Karen Marrongelle, Vice Chancellor for Academic Strategies to provide an overview of changes to the academic program approvals process for 2014-15. The Oregon University System (OUS) Provosts’ Council has developed a charge that is under review by the Presidents’ Council. This charge details the role of the Provosts’ Council in reviewing academic programs proposed by the seven public universities and Oregon Health & Science University (OHSU).

Dr. Marrongelle reviewed the four step program approval process that was developed in consultation with the Provosts’ Council and the Higher Education Coordinating Commission (HECC), noting that no major changes will be implemented over the next year. Discussion centered on how the Oregon State Board of Higher Education can continue to work with the HECC to minimize duplication while being responsive to Oregon’s workforce needs.

3. Committee Structure Post June 30, 2014

Chair Middleton directed Dr. Marrongelle to provide an overview of changes to the Oregon State Board of Higher Education’s committee structure after June 30, 2014. It was noted that the Board will convene quarterly, and absorb most of the committee’s work. Items on the academic work plan for 2014-15 include: admissions policies, potential changes to residency rules, academic program approvals, and 2015-16 achievement compacts. In addition to the academic work plan, the
Chancellor’s Office anticipates the Board will need to take action on changes to the mission statements of Southern Oregon University and Eastern Oregon University.

The Committee agreed that staff should consider frontloading work in order to accommodate for the onboarding of new members in the coming months, as well as maximizing the efficiency of Chancellor’s Office staff.

**DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS**

4. **OUS Achievement Compacts for 2014-15**

Chair Middleton called upon Bob Kieran, Associate Vice Chancellor for Institutional Research to provide an overview of the work on Achievement Compacts. It was noted that the development process is similar to that of previous years, allowing for a collaborative process between OUS and the campuses. The Office of Institutional Research in conjunction with the director of performance measurement compiled all data including preliminary projections and targets for each campus. A draft document was reviewed at the May Provost Council meeting, and institutional targets were refined throughout the month.

Discussion centered on the impact of pipeline data trends, Oregon Education Investment Board (OEIB) data definitions, and the potential role of Achievement Compacts in Outcomes Based Budgeting.

**ACTION:** Directors Brittany Kenison made the motion to approve the policy, and David Yaden seconded. Motion carried.

**ACTION ITEMS**

5. **Approval of April Minutes**

**ACTION:** Directors David Yaden made the motion to approve the minutes, and Emily Plec seconded. Motion carried.

6. **Academic Program Approval**

- **EOU, BA/BS in Early Childhood Education**

Chair Middleton called upon Steve Adkison, Provost & Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs at Eastern Oregon University, to provide an overview of the proposed academic program. The BA/BS in Early Childhood Education is designed to offer students from across the region access to a high quality program that prepares students for life outside of college. The major is an online program that improves student access through use of technology, and provides a comprehensive hybrid learning model that meets the needs of post-traditional students.

Discussion centered on the regional demand for a qualified workforce, how similar programs at Portland State University and Western Oregon University may impact EOU’s online program, and possible future collaborations between the institutions to serve a state-wide need.

**ACTION:** Directors Emily Plec made the motion to approve the program, and Brittany Kenison seconded. Motion carried.
OHSU, MN/PMN/DNP in Pediatric Nurse Practitioner

Chair Middleton called upon David Robinson, Executive Vice Provost at OHSU to discuss the proposed academic program. Discussion centered on the critical role of nursing programs in Oregon, and the national trend toward specialization among nurses. Currently, there are no other Pediatric Nurse Practitioner Programs offered by Oregon’s public and private institutions.

**ACTION:** Directors David Yaden made the motion to approve the program, and Emily Plec seconded. Motion carried.

OHSU, MPH in Biostatistics

Chair Middleton called upon Dr. Robinson to provide background on the proposed academic program. The MPH in Biostatistics is designed to provide students with options for completing their degree program. Currently, OHSU offers a number of programs and certificates that include components of the degree program. Students pursing Graduate Certificates in Biostatistics will have the option of applying to the MPH in Biostatistics and directly transfer all credits, creating new opportunities for Certificate students with an interest in public health.

**ACTION:** Directors David Yaden made the motion to approve the program, and Emily Plec seconded. Motion carried.

Oregon Tech, BS in Population Health Management

Chair Middleton called upon Brad Burda, Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs at Oregon Tech to provide background on the proposed academic program. The BS in Population Health Management is a program based in applied medical sociology, with the integration of allied health disciplines currently offered by Oregon Tech. The program has three areas of emphasis that reflect the interdisciplinary approach: 1) health counseling and outreach, 2) care management and coordination, and 3) applied health data analytics.

Oregon Tech developed this program in response to recommendations from the healthcare industry, non-profit sector and government, and consulted employers to ensure the program will translate into jobs for graduates. The program will be offered on the Klamath Falls campus only.

**ACTION:** Directors David Yaden made the motion to approve the program, and Brittany Kenison seconded. Motion carried.

PSU, BA/BS in Conflict Resolution

Chair Middleton called upon Sona Andrews, Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs at Portland State University (PSU) to discuss the proposed academic program. The BA/BS in Conflict Resolution is designed to prepare students through academic work and real world experience for professional opportunities with non-governmental organizations (NGO’s). Currently, PSU offers a Masters in conflict resolution and has experienced growth in program enrollment, highlighting the need to expand the program to serve undergraduate students that are seeking similar courses.
ACTION: Directors Emily Plec made the motion to approve the program, and Brittany Kenison seconded. Motion carried.

- **PSU, BA in Judaic Studies**

  Chair Middleton called upon Dr. Andrews to provide background on the proposed academic program. The BA in Judaic Studies is a small program with a number of faculty currently teaching in this area of study. Discussion centered on general demand, noting public interest and philanthropic support for the program. Currently, one other program exists in the state at the University of Oregon. The two programs complement each other, as the UO program concentrates on the Jewish experience in antiquity and the middle ages, and the PSU program emphasizes the modern Jewish experience.

  ACTION: Directors Emily Plec made the motion to approve the program, and Brittany Kenison seconded. Motion carried.

- **WOU, AB in Economics/Computer Science/Information Systems**

  Chair Middleton called upon Steve Scheck, Vice President for Academic Affairs at Western Oregon University (WOU) to review the proposed academic programs. WOU discussed three Applied Baccalaureate (AB) Programs, noting their unique characteristics, and the use of existing curricula in order to design a new general education core curriculum. The programs were created in response to HB 3093, which suggested that AB degrees should be explored at public universities.

  - AB in Economics is designed to grant students access to career opportunities that require a bachelor’s degree in economics or business. It was noted that potential majors in this degree area rely heavily on existing course offerings, faculty and library resources, and will require little start-up resources.

  - AB in Computer Science provides students from diverse demographic and working backgrounds the opportunity to continue their education, develop stronger skills, earn a four year credential and advance in their profession. It leverages WOU’s current strengths in computer science by expanding the types of students that WOU can serve.

  - AB in Information Systems is designed to offer students who initially pursued at two-year terminal degree, but now need additional education for career advancement. Participants in the program will experience cross-over in dedicated/existing course resources.

  ACTION: Directors Brittany Kenison made the motion to approve the program, and Emily Plec seconded. Motion carried.

**INFORMATIONAL ITEMS (cont.)**

7. **Update on Early Warning System**

Chair Middleton called on Brittany Kenison to discuss the Early Warning System, Senior Project, developed at Oregon Tech. The project’s objective as to develop a system for Oregon Tech that has the ability to import and aggregate data based on student demographics and other factors that have an impact on the probability of students stopping-out. Project results include the development of tool that more effectively analyses key student, academic, and demographic information. The tool serves
two purposes: 1) importing a focused subset of data; 2) combining and order key factors in a way that enables the analyst to identify trends and patterns.

Discussion centered on the ability of the system to flag data trends in student progress and persistence, and class standing. In addition, the Committee highlighted the importance of various predictors in supporting quality student success initiatives.

**OTHER ITEMS**

8. No other items were put forward by the committee

9. Adjournment

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:27 p.m.