

EOU, Mission Statement

Background:

Eastern Oregon University engaged in an extensive strategic planning process during 2003 and 2004 that resulted in the creation of a revised mission statement, endorsed by the University Assembly on February 3, 2004. Since that time, the mission statement has been in use by the campus and displayed in various documents, including the EOU profile used as background for the Board's portfolio and retreat discussions, and the EOU repositioning plan shared with the Board in January 2008. However, the mission statement has not been formally approved by the Board.

During 2008-09, EOU is undergoing its regional accreditation review by the Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities (NWCCU). The NWCCU site team will visit EOU on October 26, 2008. As part of that process, EOU is expected to provide a current Board-approved mission statement. The existing Board-approved mission statement was approved in 1999 and does not reflect the subsequent campus consensus regarding its mission, which was part of its 2003-04 strategic planning process. Recognizing that the Board will review the mission statements of all OUS institutions during 2009 (and that a newly appointed EOU president may wish to undertake further review), EOU seeks Board approval of the 2004 mission statement pending the outcome of the 2009 Board review.

Staff recommendation to the Board:

Staff recommends that the Board approve the mission statement endorsed by the EOU University Assembly on February 3, 2004, with the understanding that the mission statement will be included in the Board's 2009 review of all OUS institution mission statements and is subject to change at that time. The mission statement for which approval is sought reads as follows:

“Eastern Oregon University guides student inquiry through integrated, high-quality liberal arts and professional programs that lead to responsible and reflective action in a diverse and interconnected world.

As an educational, cultural and scholarly center, EOU connects the rural regions of Oregon to a wider world. Our beautiful setting and small size enhance the personal attention our students receive, while partnerships with colleges, universities, agencies, and communities add to the educational possibilities of our region and state.”

(Board action required.)