Inter-institutional Faculty Senate Meeting, June 5 & 6, 2009
Report to the OSU Faculty

The IFS meeting convened at the OHSU Dental School on Friday June 5.

Host institution discussions:

Michael Bleich, Dean of Nursing, and Jack Clinton, Dean of Dentistry, shared perspectives about the role of these branches of the medical school in preparing health care providers to meet the increasing demands for care in the state of Oregon. The impacts of the state budget on these programs was discussed.

Leslie Hallick, Provost, provided an overview of the Life Sciences Collaborative Building that is being envisioned for the Portland waterfront. This will be a facility to support collaborative research and education among partners from across the OUS system.

State Board & Chancellor:

Representative Suzanne Van Orman (Hood River) offered an overview of the status of legislative actions that impact OUS. She spoke in support of higher education as a crucial part of the preK – higher ed system in Oregon.

Chancellor Pernsteiner met with the IFS and offered summary points regarding the impending budget situation as follows and in order of presentation:

- The State Board (as of 6-4-09) deferred a vote on minimum class size.
- The Board is proposing that tuition increase be capped at 9.9% maximum at the larger institutions and 7.5% max at the smaller campuses.
- The Chancellor is trying to get funding back into the statewide programs, and to tuition help for the regional campuses.
- The Chancellor’s office anticipates that the budget cuts will not exceed 15%; this will be eased by tuition increases in some settings, and by various add-backs. Add-backs to higher ed are anticipated to meet the shared impact requirements of the Federal Stimulus Package. These funds would be shared equally with the community colleges.
- The Chancellor is seeking all options for budget improvement – including any “drips and drops” such as the repeal of HB 2208, which would allow OUS to keep the earned interest on funds allocated to the system.
- Salary reduction is still on the table. The Department of Administrative Services is negotiating with SEIU -- the current plan suggests a 4.6% maximum salary reduction at the highest salary levels with variable
reductions at lower salary levels. The result will be less than a 4.6% overall salary reduction.
- The Chancellor’s Office will be implementing a 25% cut.

**Saturday, June 6th**

**Report from Rosemary Powers, IFS and State Board Member:**

The OUS Board is moving towards a “Strong Committee Model” which assigns some decision-making responsibilities to committees. This approach may work well, but may also place Board Members in a situation of making decisions without the benefit of discourse with those who have academic experience. The Board Committees are:

1) Governance – explores policy issues for OUS such as defining the relationships among the presidents, Board & Chancellor.
2) Academic Strategy – responsible for review and approval of new programs, student outcomes and progress.
3) Finance – provided approval responsibility for some financial decisions.

Student Participation & Completion Committee report: efforts will continue to define practices that work in supporting students from diverse backgrounds to succeed on our campuses. It was noted that 30-60% of students on campuses today are first generation. A diversity and success forum is being planned for fall.

**General discussion:**

PEBB decisions to self-manage health care and change in provider report and summary discussions: Encourage all to explore details that impact faculty; invitation to participate in OSU’s Faculty Senate meeting Thursday, June 11, 3:00.

**Campus reports:**

OHSU – continues to explore cutting all ties with OUS funding; salary and hiring freezes in place.

EOU – transitioning to a new president; see potential to be a center for service for veterans as a high percentage of military recruits are from rural communities; campus is suffering from dual message: increase enrollment & increase tuition.

WOU – feel well-positioned because of the deep cuts the campus has taken in the past few years; new health care facility in process.

PSU – all focus is on managing budget reductions; staff reductions are being made now; PSU website outlines proposed cuts – very transparent.
SOU – still trying to recover from last retrenchment; Article 11 of the campus Union charter provides option for program closure and release of tenured faculty at the program level. SOU anticipates 7.5% tuition increase; receiving 30-40 students from UO spill-over joint enrollment agreement next year.

OIT – meeting challenges; construction activities going forward i.e. Health Professions facility and new residence hall; new geothermal well drilled.

OSU Cascades – experienced great outpouring of community support at recent meetings. Ron Reuter represented Cascades campus at the 7:30 am Board coffee on Friday.

UO – new transitions with new president; focused on budget cuts

Adjourn 12:00 noon

Respectfully Submitted:

Joanne Sorte, Senior IFS Representative

And on behalf of:
Starr McMullen, IFS Representative
Ron Reuter, IFS Representative OSU Cascades Campus