OSU Report of the Interinstitutional Faculty Senate – May 7-8, 2010

The IFS discussed the topics of OUS restructuring, the applied baccalaureate degree, learning outcomes assessment, upcoming High School math standards, and current happenings at the OUS campuses. Chancellor George Pernsteiner also gave the IFS a briefing on the state of OUS.

OUS Restructuring:

Proposal coming from OUS would maintain board over-arching authority while allowing for some autonomy at individual campuses. Goal is to take line-item authority from the legislature and give it to OUS, which will increase the functionality of the OUS budget. Essentially, if OUS brings in money and is required to provide a quality product, they will have authority to direct where the income is spent to meet that goal, rather than having to ask permission to spend money that OUS has earned. The Chancellor in his debriefing emphasized the importance of OUS having this basic ability to use the money it has earned.

Applied Baccalaureate:

Presentation by Joe Holliday and Melissa Tripiletti gave a summary of the work on SB442, which mandates a proposal on how to implement the AB. Report is currently in draft form. Four concentrations for the AB were considered: career oriented, management oriented, inverse structure, and work-experience-based. The proposal will be focusing on the first two. The draft document has the caveat added that any proposed program will still need to be vetted and approved by the Cat I proposal process.

The IFS discussed concern over the concept of an AB. One main concern was wording – how is an AB differentiated from a BS in the marketplace? A second concern over the CC’s offering the AB was that students that transfer from CC’s to OUS institutions have shown a different level of preparedness than students transferring from other 4-year institutions (data is available); how would that be reflected in the AB?

Learning Outcomes Assessment:

Presentation from Ruth Keele on the LOA – a statewide framework for meaningful assessment across OUS. Work is underway on an OUS website, investigating a common software platform, and finding options for demonstrating institutional accountability for student achievement.
**High School Math Standards:**

Bob Turner presented information on the national math standards about to be adopted and how the key achievement indicators developed by the group may not correspond well with what university faculty desire in terms of math competency in an incoming freshman. In brief summary, a national survey indicates that HS math instructors are focusing on higher level math functions while university instructors (that use math in class) want to ensure competency in basic functions. IFS has since developed a position letter encouraging the standards committee to consider making sure the math standards address making sure a student is prepared for college level algebra.

**The Chancellor:**

The chancellor is requesting a meeting with the Emergency Board to allow OUS to spend tuition income on hiring faculty in preparation for the influx of the ~95,000 OUS students in the fall (note: the E-Board declined to address this after the May budget forecast was released). He thoroughly supports a unified OUS (intact with all institutions) gaining non-agency status with the state to avoid having to ask for permission to spend income. A sticking point for this is student government which wants legislative control to remain in OUS, with the misconception that OUS will recklessly raise tuition while the legislature will protect students from tuition increases. Lack of OUS restructuring does not allow for OUS efficiency.

All bets for the budget hang on the May state budget forecasts.

Action items from IFS include providing a faculty voice on restructuring, a letter on math standards, work on dual credit HS programs, and communicating with the student associations on the perils of no-restructuring. Meeting was adjourned on Saturday, 12 noon.

Respectfully submitted,

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