Chapter 4 – Effectiveness and Improvement

Core Theme Evaluation

Core Theme #1—Undergraduate Education

Core Theme #2 – Graduate Education and Research

Core Theme #2—Evaluation—Executive Summary

Oregon State University is a Carnegie Doctoral/Research-Extensive University with Very High Research Activity. It is one of only two land, sea, space and sun grant universities in the United States. As such Graduate Education and Research are essential components of what Oregon State is.

To evaluate our effectiveness in Graduate Education and Research, we have selected four Objectives for our efforts in Graduate Education and Research. They are: (1) Provide high quality and rigorous graduate education and professional programs. (2) Engage in a broad range of scholarly, artistic and research-related activities (3) Foster a creative and collaborative intellectual culture within the University and beyond and (4) Demonstrate measureable economic impacts within Oregon and beyond.

In the first three objectives we judge our efforts as Satisfactory while we judge our efforts towards Objective 4 as Superior.

Objective 1.—Grade: Satisfactory

Rationale for Satisfactory Grade

For Objective 1, we recognize that at the cornerstone of a research university, one must find rigorous graduate education and professional programs. The graduate and professional students are essential products of our research enterprise. Their training and development helps to meet the manpower needs of Oregon, the Pacific Northwest, the U.S. and the world. To contribute effectively to research, our students must be of the highest quality and must be challenged to produce their best. Based upon our institutional indicators for Objective 1, we note that our graduate students constitute about 15% of the total student enrollment with 34% of these being doctoral candidates. Compared to our peer institutions, both of these numbers are low with our peer institutions averaging 20% of the total student enrollment being graduate or professional students and 60% being doctoral candidates. We are engaged in an aggressive program to address these problems with goals of achieving 20% graduate enrollment by 2014 (4100 graduate students). This program will result in an increase of 900 in the number of graduate students. To achieve this goal, we must also increase the ratio of (PhD candidates /graduate faculty) to 2/1 by 2014 and eventually reach a goal of 3/1.

These graduate students are somewhat limited in their geographic origin with 50% being from Oregon, 25% from the U.S. outside of Oregon and 25% being international in origin. (2002 data). We are now seeking to increase the number of international students through a new cooperative initiative with the INTO organization.
Currently about 9 of our 80 graduate programs are ranked in the top third of programs within their discipline within the U.S. This is consistent with our status as a Tier 3 national public university.

Our professional programs are very successful in preparing students for careers in education, veterinary medicine and pharmacy. Over 90+% of our graduates successfully complete licensure examinations in their chosen area. The OSU median score on these examinations is 67% which is substantially above the national median score of 50%.

In summary, we believe these indicators support a “grade” of Satisfactory with respect to Objective 1.

Objective 2.—Grade: Satisfactory

Rationale for Satisfactory Grade

To be a research university, we (students, and faculty) must be deeply involved in scholarly activity. Research involves original significant contributions to knowledge and we can’t make those contributions from the sidelines. Scholarly activity is measured in a variety of ways, including the traditional publications in peer-reviewed journals, book authorship, public performances and exhibitions, etc.

OSU faculty published xxxx articles in the refereed literature in 2009-2010, authored yy books, edited zz journals and were granted qq patents.