

VIII. Commendations and Recommendations

Commendations

1. The evaluation team commends EOU for its deep sense of commitment to serving the rural regions of the state, including Eastern Oregon. High levels of commitment to meeting students where they are and contributing to community economic development were voiced by faculty, staff, and administrators from all sectors of the university.
2. The evaluation team commends Eastern Oregon University for its faculty-driven academic program assessment approach, which has transformed a process-based approach to one which facilitates reflection and program improvement based on the expertise of its faculty members.
3. The evaluation team commends Eastern Oregon University for its robust, open and inclusive tuition setting process. This process utilizes a broad spectrum of relevant data elements and is truly participatory with active involvement throughout the process from a cross-section of campus including students, staff and faculty via the Tuition Advisory and Budget and Planning Committees as well as through university-wide open forums. The positive impact of this process is evident in the level of student support for proposed increases and complimentary feedback at the Oregon University System level.
4. The evaluation team commends EOU's aggressive, visionary, and proactive leadership to streamline operations, reduce costs, and improve services, aided by insights gained from the self-evaluation process. Leadership actions have led to reorganization of regional operations, student success and engagement, and information technology, as well as development of a long-term sustainability plan.

Recommendations

1. The evaluation team recommends that Eastern Oregon University continue its work on articulating mission fulfillment to more clearly describe the process and criteria which determine an acceptable level of mission fulfillment in cases where the institution has not yet met its ambitious targets. (Standard 1.A.2)
2. While checking certificate programs for related instruction, the evaluator found that not all catalog listings are current. The evaluation team recommends that EOU take the necessary steps to ensure that all catalog listings are accurate and that certificate programs meet NWCCU requirements for related instruction (Standard 2.C.11, 2.D.5)
3. Whereas the evaluation team acknowledges that EOU has made significant progress toward uniform application of academic portfolio assessment, it recommends that the university continue to ensure uniform application of assessment across all academic programs (Standard 2.C.4)