



EASTERN OREGON
UNIVERSITY

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK:
MONDAY MUSINGS

January 13, 2014

Colleagues,

Thank you for participating in the discussion last week with Chancellor Rose and State Board of Higher Education Director Kirk Schueler. Their visit allowed for a robust sharing of ideas, concerns and thoughts regarding how EOU and the state of Oregon is dealing with fiscal issues and the transition of our institutional governance structures.

As I have said on many occasions, we are operating in very trying and ambiguous times. An important outcome of these meetings and visits is that it is up to us to fix our fiscal issues, and a significant part of this process involves the work of the Academic Program and Curriculum Task Force outlined in a previous University-wide memo last November.

Provost Adkison and I developed the workings of this task force, and have been consulting with the deans and faculty members to provide a structure and charge to the committee. In broad terms, the central question guiding the task force's mission-driven program re-envisioning and focusing process is as follows:

What do EOU's programs need to look like, in whole and in part, in order to most effectively serve our regional role and mission throughout rural Oregon?

To arrive at a concrete sense of how to address this central question, the task force members should consider several focusing questions, such as the following:

- What makes EOU unique? What is our institutional niche?
- At what are we currently successful and why? At what could we be successful in the future and why?
- What factors drive our funding and success models? How should these factors be accounted for and leveraged?

As the task force members and our larger University community approach these questions, the need to maintain focus on the three key goals of the program and curriculum reconsiderations is paramount. They are as follows:

- Academic programs structured to support student entrance, retention and completion, regardless of where students are located.

- Academic programs structured to reflect sustainable faculty staffing levels, both regular and fixed term, relative to benchmarked faculty data from comparable programs.
- Academic programs structured to reflect sustainable faculty workload assignment, avoiding reliance on inappropriate term-in-term-out regular and fixed-term overload, as well as reliance on online adjunct instruction.

Task force membership will be drawn from program faculty according to the following schema:

College of Arts & Sciences: Two members from each of the divisions in CAS: Arts & Letters, Social Sciences and Modern Languages, and Science, Math and Technology.

College of Business: Two members from the CoB faculty.

College of Education: Two members from the CoE faculty.

Pierce Library: Two members from the Library faculty.

In addition, the **Physical Science and Health Education** program and the **Fire Services Administration** program will each elect one member for the task force.

Given Dr. Rosemary Powers' distinguished service as both a faculty director of the State Board of Higher Education, and a key member of the legislative HECC and its workgroups, the provost and I have asked her to chair and convene this task force.

The formal task force membership is comprised exclusively of faculty, consistent with our regional accreditation standards, which expect that an institution's faculty will control that institution's curriculum. However, the task force will draw upon the broad and deep experience of our professional staff in their deliberations, most especially those represented by our Advising Council and both on and off campus professional advisors, as well as those professional staff in other areas who hold expertise key to the task force considerations.

This week Provost Adkison, working with our college deans, will initiate an election process across all three colleges whereby our academic faculty will nominate and elect members to serve on the task force. *Please note that our provost asks that agreement to stand for election to and serve on the task force be predicated on a willingness to engage the task force responsibilities as articulated above. Those individuals who cannot make that commitment should respectfully decline to serve.*

Working on its own under the guidance of Dr. Powers, the task force will set its process for approaching the deliberations as articulated above and for delivering subsequent recommendations to me and the provost to incorporate into larger planning efforts, all of which will be engaged through our full spectrum of shared governance and general campus community.

I conclude by reemphasizing the importance of this work. As Chancellor Rose stated in every one of the forums, we must make difficult decisions and now is not the time to disengage from the process. Be involved and active as your advice, wisdom and insights are necessary at this critical juncture in our history.

Star of Eastern Oregon University

This past Saturday, Coach Jennifer Simonetti and our women's soccer team exemplified the great connections we have with our community by hosting an indoor soccer tournament for U-12 and U-14 players in Quinn. The tournament was run and managed by team members who worked hard all afternoon and into the evening. The tourney brought both male and female players from all around to our campus, along with their parents and families. Quinn and the main gym were busy, with players working on their skills and playing matches until a champion U-12 and U-14 team won and the team players each received EOU rally scarves. These types of events help expose more people to EOU and all that we have to offer!

Kudos and Miscellaneous

I hope you take a moment to experience the incredible exhibit in Nightingale Gallery exclusively featuring the work of nationally renowned artist, Joe Page. His work truly "engulfs" you, making you an active viewer. For details, go to www.eou.edu/news-press/joe-page-exhibition.

Congratulations to the women's basketball team for an exciting last second one-point victory over rivals College of Idaho last Friday night. Our men's team played extremely well and fought hard, but was unable to overcome an incredibly hot-shooting College of Idaho team. And congratulations also must be extended to Dr. Allen Evans, as he stated with his constant optimistic view, "My teams won both games!" (Allen, on a personal note, you can take off your purple shirt now.)

Monty the Mountaineer received 118 votes in the Cascade Conference Mascot Challenge, propelling him to the quarterfinals with a "head-to-head" challenge against SOU's Rocky the Raider. Starting tomorrow at 8 a.m., take a moment and go to www.facebook.com/CascadeCollegiateConference and vote for Monty by "Liking" his photo. (I hear the photo will also show off my own athletic talents!)

Very Respectfully,

Bob

Bob Davies
President