



EASTERN OREGON  
UNIVERSITY

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK:  
MONDAY MUSINGS

March 17, 2014

Colleagues,

Thank you for your notes and words following last week's announcement of my being named the next president of Murray State University.

With this news and with the important work we need to focus on, please know that I, along with Steve Adkison, are committed to ensuring as smooth a transition as possible in addition to positioning Eastern as best we can. Leadership changes are never easy and I very much understand the different levels of anxiousness about our "next steps" in this leadership transition. As such, I empathize with you and will attempt to alleviate your concerns as much as possible. Steve and I are committed to seeing these changes through and our next few months will be dedicated to this University's future.

Chancellor Melody Rose and the State Board of Higher Education have the responsibility of appointing an interim president and they are taking this charge seriously and acting expeditiously. I know that she is already receiving suggestions and nominations for this very important appointment. I also know that she has had multiple discussions with Board members and others as she is focused on making a recommendation to the Board and securing their approval in the very near future. Additionally, and to aid in this transition, she has made plans to be on our campus early in the spring term to meet with you to discuss this time of transition.

I believe it is imperative that the president and provost form an indispensable partnership. As such, I have decided to slow down our process of selecting an interim provost until an interim president is named. Once that is known, I will work with the interim president and move our process forward as quickly as possible.

It is my goal and intent that with these two appointments in place, Steve and I will work very closely and in tandem with them to ensure continuity of decisions and processes. Again, I foresee that these announcements will be made very soon and we will be able to begin work quickly.

Over the next term, we have a tremendous amount of planning that must be completed and it will be essential that the new leadership team, along with the University community, be in accordance with these efforts. This includes our institutional governance models along with fiscal sustainability planning.

With the announcement of last week and the transitioning that is now begun, we will postpone the formal University Hall meeting scheduled to be held this week and replace it instead with a "Coffee with Steve and Bob" so that we can answer questions and hear your ideas directly. This will be held from 3-5 p.m. this Wednesday in Inlow 201. We will reschedule the University Hall in conjunction with the Chancellor's visit next term.

Again, thank you for your dedication to Eastern and our students. I have received numerous notes expressing congratulations, as well as communicating some anxiety during this time of immense challenge and change. I am confident that whomever is appointed to lead EOU during the next phase of its history will do so with a sense of purpose and dedication that will preserve its traditions, its mission and its core values of serving students.

Sincerely,

Bob

Bob Davies  
President