Budget and Planning Committee

Meeting Minutes

January 13, 2009 12:00 pm

Inlow 201


Anna Cavinato called the meeting to order at 12:00 pm.

1. Approval of Minutes from 12-9-08 Meeting:

The minutes were reviewed, edited and approved. Teresa is to send minutes to Kathryn Shorts for posting on the University Council website.

2. Update from President Dixie Lund:

Dixie reported that the expected budget cuts are currently $380,000 which is $540,000 less than what was previously expected. There are two forthcoming budget forecasts: one in February and another in June. It is the expectation that these forecasts will come with more cuts. The expectations for the next biennium are not good. Projected cuts could be as high as 20%. Education is still high on the governor’s list and it is possible that OUS will not have budget cuts as high as other state agencies but there will be cuts to the education budget.

Dixie reported that the last few weeks have been rather busy. She attended and participated in an OPB event and then attended EOU’s accreditation hearing in Seattle and then returned to Portland for State Board Meetings. EOU garnered several mentions at the OPB event and Dixie felt this was very good publicity for the university. At the accreditation hearings, Dixie was allowed to explain the changes that EOU has gone through in the last couple of years. The final accreditation report will be sent to EOU within one month. Dixie noted that she would not be surprised to have a repeat visit from the accreditation team in about 2-3 years which is normal considering EOU’s past situation and on-going changes. Dixie reported that most of the state board meeting focused on the current budget situation. Virginia Key reported that she had attended a regional vice presidents meeting earlier in the week. She reported that there is still discussion of the smaller universities sharing resources but noted that this will be a rather slow process if it does happen. Virginia also noted that EOU is the only smaller university to use Banner for Financial Aid.

President Lund noted that there are three upcoming events that will allow EOU to showcase itself between now and Spring Break. The first event will be FBLA which will be held on February 5. This event brings many regional high school students to our campus. The second event is the 4-H Regional Summit which will bring approximately
80 students to our campus. The third event is the FFA Student State Convention and it is the hope that EOU will host one entire day’s events on campus. The local high school and middle school will be used to host the other day’s events. This event will draw about 1600-2000 students and advisors to La Grande. These are all excellent opportunities to showcase EOU.

Dixie also reported on the current enrollment reports which will not be final until the 4th week of this term. Enrollment data can be accessed at www.eou.edu/ir and are updated every Monday.

President Lund reported to the group that she had shared their report on budget process with Cabinet and it is the feeling of the cabinet that the focus of the Budget & Planning Committee in the budget process should be one of communication. Dixie noted that there are some rather cumbersome steps that are taken during the process of budget cuts and noted that there are individuals that are paid to work on these cuts. She noted that Cabinet feels that B & P should be a sounding board for these cuts. There was much discussion by the group on what they see the committee’s duties. Many felt that the committee was formed to suggest cuts and help with the decision making. It was decided that Virginia will give a broad overview to the committee and any other interested parties regarding the campus departmental budgets. Anna noted that the Budget & Planning Committee will discuss this further. It was suggested by some members of the Budget & Planning Committee that they offer recommendations to the budget process and develop procedures. Dixie noted that often there is not time to involve committees in the cuts due to severe time constraints.

President Lund and Virginia Key noted that a Housing Consultant (Dr. Janz) had been on campus and had met with several groups regarding EOU’s current housing situation. It was noted that the new dorms are not at capacity and EOU is looking at ways to market EOU’s housing. EOU will be meeting with the Oregon National Guard and other veteran’s groups. It is hoped that EOU will be able to attract some of these soldiers to EOU to continue their education. EOU does offer academic credits for military training. The group discussed what particular needs this group would have and what services would need to be offered at EOU.

The next meeting will be held on February 10 and will be scheduled for approximately 2 hours. This will enable Virginia Key to give a lengthy presentation. Teresa will try to reserve Inlow Hall 201 for this meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:10pm

Minutes respectfully submitted by
Teresa Carson-Mastrude