



EASTERN OREGON
UNIVERSITY

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK:
MONDAY MUSINGS

March 10, 2014

Colleagues,

A few quick updates:

Last week, each of the four Technical and Regional University (TRU) presidents presented to the State Board of Higher Education's Task Force on Governance about our desire to have independent institutional boards. We also discussed implementing the "Presidents Council," which will preserve our important connections for legislative advocacy, program coordination and sharing of services to save costs.

The meeting was extremely positive and our "separate but unified" approach was well received. The members of the task force asked detailed questions and provided very good feedback. In all, I believe we have positioned EOU for success in an endeavor that will ensure our ability to maintain institutional core values and independence in decision-making, while at the same time ensuring we meet statewide goals and objectives. On March 31, each of us will present our plans to the full State Board of Higher Education, and on April 4 they will officially take a vote on our future governance.

To continue the governance discussion, House Bill 4018 passed both legislative chambers on Friday and is being forwarded to the governor to be signed into law. HB 4018 clarifies the new role of the State Board of Higher Education and provides direction to the SBHE beyond the "yes or no" approach to institutional boards by giving them the opportunity to contribute additional recommendations and conditions in authorizing an institutional board. The TRU presidents and legislative staff spent a great deal of time and effort dealing with this important language and it reflects our strength in working together.

As we move forward in this direction, I will continue to keep you apprised, as it will affect our decision-making authorities on many fronts. To me, it is critical that we keep this as Eastern-centered as possible.

On a different note, several members of our University community have asked me about the interim provost position. We contracted with The Registry, an organization that specializes solely in providing interim leadership positions for colleges and universities, to assist us. The Registry has selected around 500 former university leaders for placement. In order to be listed,

each individual goes through an extensive interview process and after every engagement they are evaluated intensely to determine future assignments. It is a very well respected organization in higher education with an excellent reputation. For more information, go to www.registry-online.org/default.asp.

Through this process, they have identified select individuals whose backgrounds fit our University environment and needs and have sent me their vitas. In order to determine whom to invite to campus for an interview, I have impaneled an advisory committee of 10 individuals (Richard Croft, Donna Evans, Ray Brown, Doug Kaigler, April Curtis, Darren Dutto, Doug Briney, Sam McCumber, Jeff Carman and Sarah Witte). They have provided me excellent feedback and we are working on inviting three individuals for interviews.

As of now, we are targeting April 7-8 for each of the candidates to meet with many University constituents. On a financial note, utilizing The Registry will not be any more expensive than appointing an internal candidate or selecting someone on our own. It is my intent that the interim will serve for one year and we will initiate a national search beginning late fall term, concluding mid-winter term.

Kudos and Miscellaneous

On Saturday, we hosted 163 young and budding authors through EOU's Oregon Writing Project and the 24th annual Student Writers' Workshop. The participants came from Annex, Baker City, Canyon City, Elgin, Halfway, Island City, John Day, La Grande, Lostine, Milton-Freewater, Monument, Oxbow, Pendleton, Richland and Ukiah.

Professor Nancy Knowles led this effort and provided the following highlights: the Workshop included a session led by long-time SWW participant Heather Acquistapace, who wrote her first novel at age 14 and published her first at 17; readings by Eastern Oregon Youth Writing Contest winners judged by EOU Professor Emeritus George Venn; and a \$1,000 special award from the Oregon Community Foundation, presented by Jan Harris, honoring the Oregon Writing Project's regional partnership with ArtsEast and Fishtrap, building a network of writing-infused activities in Eastern Oregon.

Many individuals – faculty, staff, students, alumni and community members – worked on this event to make it a success.

A recent survey conducted by Professor Gary Keller's research methodology class for La Grande Main Street asked our students about their perceptions of downtown and what they believe is needed to attract them there. Results of the survey will be presented at 9 a.m. this Wednesday, March 12 in Zabel Hall, Room 219. All are welcome to attend.

Assistant Professor of Education Rae Ette Newman is the guest presenter for this week's colloquium. "The Struggle for Prekindergarten Expansion in the United States" begins at 4 p.m. Thursday, March 13 in Ackerman Hall, Room 210. For more on the presentation visit www.eou.edu/news-press/colloquium-newman.

This Wednesday, our women's basketball team opens the NAIA National Tournament when they take on Southwestern (Kansas) at 8:15 a.m. in Sioux City, Iowa. We wish them a successful run and know they will represent EOU well!

Our indoor track team enjoyed an exceptional showing at the NAIA National Championships. In total, EOU had 12 All-American performances and three national champions: Talitha Fagen in women's pole vault; Damion Flores in men's 5,000 meter run; and Hans Reolle in men's 1,000 meter run. For full details, go to www.eousports.com.

Finally, thanks to all of you who took the time to send an e-mail or talk to me on campus following my announcement last week. Your support and understanding is extremely appreciated.

Thank you,

Bob

Bob Davies
President