



EASTERN OREGON  
UNIVERSITY

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK:  
MONDAY MUSINGS

May 19, 2014

Colleagues,

Last Friday, the State Board of Higher Education unanimously passed the statement of financial conditions for Eastern and Southern Oregon universities.

I am extremely pleased that the [statement of conditions](http://www.eou.edu/president), which is available on my website at [www.eou.edu/president](http://www.eou.edu/president) under "New Updates," sets the foundation for our University to successfully achieve the recommended objectives and have the same status of the other public universities in very short order. While the primary aim of the conditions is to achieve financial viability, it does so with a clear link to the mission of our University, serving the needs of our region and meeting statewide goals. To me, this connection between financial viability and mission fulfillment is crucial, as it will ensure long-term strategic decisions remain firmly established between the available resources, the demands of the state and the goals that are being set.

Specifically, the four key ratios along with the enrollment analysis are important parts of this process. First, we will no longer be held to a single measuring point. While fund balance is an important measurement, it is not the *single* most important and does not convey all the information that is needed. Further, as the analysis is based on trends, peers and the performance of the other public universities in Oregon, these ratios will be put into context and not in isolation. This is a very important aspect, as I believe it will demonstrate the fiscal challenges that are being borne by the current state appropriations to public higher education.

As we move forward with our own Sustainability Plan update and address our fiscal challenges, I appreciate the significant feedback, suggestions and alternative recommendations you have shared with us to date. The open forums with the Budget & Planning Committee, along with their own work, have provided several key inputs. In addition, several forums engaging our students have allowed for a great deal of information sharing and insights through the questions and concerns they have raised. Furthermore, many e-mails and letters sent to us have likewise strengthened the recommendations or provided alternatives that will be considered for the final drafting.

One important aspect that has been requested is a new section, beyond the retrenchment recommendations, that provides a set of future investment ideas to assist in stabilizing enrollments, enhancing retention, increase learning opportunities and providing a pathway for future success of Eastern. We will be adding this section to the final plan as a set of possible and potential ideas for the University to consider. It is important to note that these will not be

decisions; rather ideas to build from and consider as resources become available and the University mends its fiscal conditions. In many ways, it ties directly to the statement of conditions passed by the State Board of Higher Education on Friday, as this forward approach is about positioning EOU for success in the future. This is the focus we all need to be taking.

To conclude, this upcoming week provides us opportunities to see the success of our students in many and varied ways:

- The Spring Symposium is Wednesday, May 21. This annual event provides all of us the chance to see and participate in the significant research and academic pursuits of our students. For details, please visit [www.eou.edu/news-press/2014-symposium](http://www.eou.edu/news-press/2014-symposium) and [www.eou.edu/sprsymp](http://www.eou.edu/sprsymp).
- In the Nightingale Gallery is the annual “All-Campus Juried Student Exhibition.” This represents the best artistic work of our students and is extremely impressive. See the show through June 13 and for more details visit [www.eou.edu/news-press/2014-juried-student-exhibition](http://www.eou.edu/news-press/2014-juried-student-exhibition).
- “Les Miserables” opens Thursday and runs this weekend and next. I have seen a prelude of some of the scenes from this amazing show and it surely will be a magnificent production – I dare say it will surpass the spectacular performance of “The Phantom of the Opera.” For ticket information, see [www.eou.edu/theatre/box-office-information](http://www.eou.edu/theatre/box-office-information).

I hope you will be able to participate and support our students in all three of these events.

### **Star of Eastern Oregon University**

This week's Star of Eastern exemplifies our community values as both a student and a professional staff member. Through multiple terms as president of Speel-Ya Native American Student Council and our Rural and Native American Programs student intern, she has capably served our community and offered Native American students sound mentoring and role modeling. Her willingness to step up as our interim Rural and Native American Programs coordinator this spring, under exceptionally challenging circumstances, underscores her passion and commitment to our best EOU values. Following on the heels of our Indian Arts Festival Spring Powwow – successfully staged for its 44<sup>th</sup> year by our outstanding Speel-Ya students – please join me in congratulating Shoshoni Walker, this week's Star of EOU.

Thank you for your dedication to our students and I wish you all a very good week.

Best,

Bob

Bob Davies  
President