

## **Special Faculty Senate Meeting – April 7, 2009**

Present:

Allen Evans  
Dan Mielke  
Jim Tooke  
Jeff Johnson  
Greg Monahan  
Kerri Wenger (phone)  
Steve Tanner  
Molly Litchfield  
Jodi Varon  
Peter Johnson  
Rosemary Powers  
DeAnna Timmermann  
Richard Croft  
Ruthi Davenport

Others:

Cory Peeke  
Jessica Plattner  
Doug Kaigler  
Kerry Loewen  
Kat Galloway

### **Kerry – Report from IIFS**

- Met last weekend on WOU campus – conversation was mostly about budget –  
Their applications are up 15% - They are allowing (or someone else is allowing)  
High School students to take math placement tests for free, then using this test in  
their file as a part of recruitment. All institutions will be adding a check mark on  
their application form asking if students would want to be considered for  
admission at another campus – no additional application fee would be charged

- Steve – (President’s cabinet report) – Dixie has been working on applications to OUS in general – can apply to more than one institution at the same time – what Kerry is reporting on is a hybrid
- Kerry – On the form, you don’t check any particular institution – if you are not accepted at one, your application goes to the rest
- Molly reported that students met with Dixie – It was her understanding that if you don’t get in one institution, then you pay all 7 applications fees to applications to all 7
- Kerry believed there was no additional fee and Steve agreed that students use one form, which is an application to all 7 institutions, with one fee
- Rosemary said there was a common process, not a common form – Students check a box on the application form that says other institutions can consider admitting you – not sure how other institutions will have access to your applications – other institutions would not ask for another fee
- This would be starting fall 2010 because there are already students being admitted for Fall 2009
- U of O has about 200 students who “won’t fit” (no room in dorms or off-campus housing) – so they’re “giving them” to SOU – in two years they can come to U of O as a junior – Kerry suggested “Why not EOU? – EOU dismissed as not having the same Liberal Arts mission as do SOU and Uof O – Kerry tried to clarify that we’re about more than just DDE – Evidently there is a bias at other institutions against us that we need to object to

- IIFS Discussed the Provost Council on Learning Outcomes and Assessment – they’re visiting EOU (Bob Turner) and will be looking for faculty input
- Jeff – There has been information out about this – There will be whole day meetings with specific constituencies and there will be times for meeting with faculty in general – Bob will be looking for input and he’ll have some say in regard to the Chancellor’s office’s action – Encouraged senators to find time to meet with him – Sarah Witte organizing these meetings – She could be contacted for further information
- Chancellor says we’ll bottom out in 2010, and get funding up to 18 months later – No one will know specifics until May 18, when the co-chairs release their budgets – 30% is being asked for – The Chancellor thinks it will be 20% - Tuitions are going up an average of 12% - (but will be less here) – 30% will be held back for financial aide, but this won’t cover all costs – There is talk of a streamlined curriculum
- Governor has requested a 4.6% salary cut from all state employees – large universities’ faculty say “sure, fine” but the regionals’ faculty say “we’re still not equal with comparators”
- Instead of taking this cut, there is talk of the option of taking 4.6 % of salary plus OPE and donating it to the foundation – Then you could take this as a tax deduction (**ask Kerry**) – There is a question whether this is legal
- Chancellor says no decrease would happen unless all agencies take cuts – The cuts would be progressive – If you make under \$27,000, you wouldn’t take a cut – There would be higher cuts for those with higher salaries

- U of O President and Provost said in a letter what they are doing – They have a different understanding – 4.6% cut will happen if we hit the 30% level – They’re telling staff if a program can reduce costs through voluntary FTE cuts, this will be credited toward overall cuts
- Regionals will be cut less than other institutions – OSU Cascades campus will get a larger cut than others

### **Rosemary – State Board Meeting Report**

- Pointed out some general things about the board – Over the last few years, it has been trying to restructure itself – Established three main committees:
  - First – Academic Strategies Committee (all curricular approvals, evaluations of programs – Participation and Completion Committee under that group)
  - Second – Finance and Administration Committee – (Sacrosanct committee – last board came in and made big changes)
  - Third – Governance and Policy Committee – (hiring and firing, legislative policy, hiring presidents)
- Mentioned a report from the board’s Participation and Completion Committee regarding responsibility to serve underrepresented groups. Requested time on next senate agenda to discuss.
- Provide context for us about what’s going on and why certain things are being proposed – Senate bill 442 – originally included the suggestions such as regionals becoming branch campuses– It has now morphed into large bill – (She gave Steve

the URL) – The bill tells us to study a lot of things and tells us the thing we need to pay attention to

- C words – close, consolidate, coordinate, collaborate
- There will be a report on the consolidation ideas – A group will conduct a study to examine which things might be put together – which services – We, along with Community Colleges and the Cascades campus will be asked to start a conversation about ways to meet the needs of residents of the eastern half of the state – They don't have funds to support and the board believes that it is time for us to think about what we could become if we are to meet needs of residents – At the Provost Meeting, Provost Jaeger presented several proposals for AA programs at EOU – These are essentially not new programs – We used to do them – These are seen as responding to region's needs and not being picked up by community colleges since not “in their service district.” Legislature will be looking for more coordinated approaches.
- Board will also look at consolidating management and enrollment services, which is another study
- Board will review admissions and remove redundancies – We may be asked to collaborate and we may have to remove programs that are repeated – We need to review our mission when making reductions and we should try to not reduce credit-bearing services – Instead, reduce public service programs like OSU's extension – OUS said at the 30% cut level, they would have to close 23 extension services This kind of potential cut would affect a large number of tenured professors, and so poses special problems for OSU.

- How much we can be cut? – OUS had to present a scenario for the consequences of a 30% cut in state general funds to the Ways and Means Committee. Based on the Federal Stimulus Bill, they are trying to add language that would protect higher education from disproportionate cuts – lower than the 04-06 biennium – but it’s about 20 % less than what we have now in our budget
- Steve – Any cuts to education have to be equal to what happens (cuts) in K-12 – There has to be the same percent cut – They can’t be cut more than the average of other state agencies – This is the best safeguard higher education has ever had in this kind of economic situation – There is a waiver possible
- Provost Council presented a proposal to board – A statement on low enrollment courses – and a statement on low-demand programs – Low enrollment statement gives institutions ability to make exceptions for low enrollment courses – We have those situations at small institutions – This is tied to accountability – Provosts have to make a report and give ways of addressing low demand programs – These are programs that have fewer than five majors in a year – They will have to justify their existence

Senate discussion: A lot of these programs are minors within Liberal Studies – Minors provide service to majors so that fact needs to be figured into this policy – The policy has not been approved yet – The only way to know the number of students in any minor is if students file the “Recognition of Minor” form – There is no other way to know how many students in a minor – There are new rules for Liberal Studies minors that require certain forms – There has been a problem in the past with data and tracking numbers – This won’t be a problem in the future with these changes in Liberal Studies – It is not

clear how they are determining what constitutes a “major” Is it graduates per year? –

Number of declared majors?

- Greg – We should push at OUS and Legislature to count every two minors as a major, in terms of the number of hours in the classroom – That should be the formula we push for – two minors equals a major
- IIFS requested that we give them feedback – this is one good suggestion
- IIFS requests update – Kerry will send in – They’re looking for specific suggestions – Anything on this list that is potential problem, send to Kerry
- Jodi – Advisors could look through files – Every major has a minor along with it for upper division credits – What would happen to the potential for students to graduate if there weren’t minors for their upper division credits?
- As a senate we should ask that this happens – Clarify how to count – 2 minors that are half a major right now – The data exists right now – In Arts and Sciences College, Molly Burke has five years of graduation applications – We should insist that the administration go through this data and see where the minors have been – We have a right to claim that if a student’s major is Liberal Studies with two minors, these should count as majors – We should push this to happen at the administration level
- We need clear definition of Liberal Studies graduates – usually about 180-200 graduate and most have a dual minor, but no one knows what the minors are – no one reports it – the information not shared
- Need to have someone from Liberal Studies come to a senate meeting – we should talk with leaders of the Liberal Studies committee

- Perhaps has already happened – Senate got a recommendation from EPCC to that effect last year
- Assessing the Liberal Studies degree, we could tackle several issues – As a senate we need to act – There are horrible events taking place in Salem at the Chancellor’s office – and on campus – Jeff thinks a quick count of the numbers of students in minors and majors should go into the budget discussions – Steve will communicate the need for this information to the President’s Council
- Also SCH information would tell us something similar – How many SCH per program and what minors people have is good information, but it won’t do much to change current figures on SCH
- Anomalies – programs will appear small, but they are playing a big role in Liberal Studies
- Administrators are meeting almost immediately for cuts on campus and sending timely notice
- Not clear how we’re going to meet required reductions – U of O assumed that 4.6 % cut was at 30% cut – a legitimate interpretation
- Suspicion that they take a 30% cut and in reality it is a 20% cut, and then they use the difference for other things
- But even the 4.6% cut won’t save programs
- 4.6 % cut – What does this mean and how it is done – Language in press release says given this scenario, every campus must reduce costs 4.6 %
- Not clear that it is a 4.6% cut in “salary” – it says “4.6 % cut in salary costs”

- Chancellor suggested that we might have something in contracts for the next biennium that says something to the effect of “It is recognized that your salary will be this much this length of time and will return to ‘X’ on this date”, with the recognition that people will resist having a reduction in salary
- Why would we take on this fight – When you’re dealing with tenured faculty, an FTE reduction is not legally possible – tenure is a “property right” – to mandatorily reduce FTE is taking away property right – There is an assumption that salary reduction the only way to go
- What if the money isn’t there to match 05-06 budget – Virginia Key brought up that it is not clear where the 05-06 numbers would come from – general fund?
- 20 % cut in budget for the state would create the necessity to cut a variety of things – could be a little bit from all salaries – could be specific positions – a combinations of cuts
- Not considered a donation back to the university – your cut in salary
- Consequences of study, when we see the results include putting some things in place right away, such as shared services – Chancellor will ask that of us quickly  
Politically, it is important that there be a real response to perceived inefficiencies right away.
- SB 442 – Provost Council told us a month ago that this is good news, because an earlier version of 442 included the “branch campus” part – that’s out - Instead, the current language asks us to study if this might be effective in reducing costs.

There has been a shared sense of panic in Salem, and this has led to some directives that demand explicit changes now –not just studies. This would include such things as having all the institutions move to a common IT platform.

- 442 is problematic – Crisis impact is now, but if we can increase on-campus enrollment, it will not be nearly as frightening as it sounded a few months ago
- Who is making cut decisions and what data are they using? Presidents' cabinet – What data – 2009-10 or last year's data – programs and people – they are looking at these
- Chancellor reiterated that as the institutions go into the cutting process, the emphasis should be on non-teaching components – Academic programs should be the lowest on the cut list – Cutting all of everything else won't be enough – There will be huge consequences for not having services for students
- What is senate going to do relative to the timeline for response – There is a one week period for the senate to respond – How do we imagine we'll respond based on what sort of information, how will we put our response together?
- Steve – On the President's page there are five years of data about the budget – head counts – GPA
- They have this data – information on majors and minors for the past 10 years – Hopefully they will consider trends – In original flow plan of how these decisions were to be made, the official mechanism for senate input was the document we sent – but we have another opportunity to respond – Kerry has a draft plan delivered on 23rd to senate – We have until 14th of May to respond: Budget Planning, University Council, Senate, AAP

- Get response from constituencies before the meeting – First week of May – Every division represented, soon after 23rd - AAP will send it out right after 23rd to all members – it will also go to senate
- Tuition – How much is it scheduled to go up? – Around 6-7% - up to \$118 per credit hour – We're losing exemptions for out of state tuition – Legislature will pass it – students already accepted for next year

Steve

- Dixie requested 3% - goes from \$111 to \$118 per credit hour – We are the smallest of the OUS institutions – Others will go from 12-15 % - we'll have 6-7% added for each year – Somewhat competitive with other surrounding states
- We lost out of state exemption – We will be charging an out of state surcharge – For in-state tuition, there are certain monies we would get – looks like they'll grant exceptions for WA, ID, AL, HI – no out of state tuition for them
- DDE tuition will also increase for next year – \$139 credit
- Tone of discussion at cabinet was that this sounds like good news – If we still have great opportunity to attract out of state and international students
- Out of state surcharge wouldn't occur until Fall 2010 – surcharge \$200-\$300 per term, which is less than out-of-state tuition
- Small school subsidy will be cut less than 30% - Chancellor's office will not be cut 30% - If cut more, it couldn't meet the needs of the system

- Legal issues related to furloughs – originally talking about furloughs – Now they're looking for other mechanisms because there are a lot of legal complications related to property rights
- Dixie said at state board meeting that it wasn't a business model that put EOU in La Grande – it is the necessity of serving the needs of the region
- Issues with amount of money PEBB is going to require – If increases are more than 5%, then PEBB has to use reserves rather than send on increases to us
- Recruitment for next year at EOU – Similar or better numbers than two years ago – last year they waived fee for reapplication – has application fee back in this year
- Mentioned that maybe senate could take up – Steve C. ideas to help students out when tuition is increased – wants to have faculty be aware of the costs of textbooks

Other discussions:

- Honors 201 as possible HUM 110 course – Create a cohort – don't want to create a sense of high and low group – If we could make honors part of first year experience and a self-paced program – If we made 1 credit instead of 3 credit, more faculty might be willing to teach – Course description says “Introduction to College” – A way to sell to the administration – A cohort would work well – otherwise we lose students – They don't get to develop relationships – we have access to GPA – but courses are not closed – they can chose to take
- Two task forces being created – historical – ecological – for Inlow hall  
Historical – several areas of building impacted – areas for renovation – what elements are of cultural and historical signification – preservation issues –

Ecological charette – join architect – efficient use of energy – sustainable sites –  
environmental quality

**Good of the Order:** Come see April and Greg in “Who’s Afraid of Virginia Woolf?” -  
April 15-19 – Schwarz Theatre

**Reminder:** Meeting with Bob Davies Thursday April 9, Inlow 201, 1:00