

Special Senate Meeting
With Bob Davies Incoming President
Thursday April 9, 2009

Present

Jeff Johnson
Steve Tanner
Richard Croft
Molly Litchfield
Allen Evans
Ken Watson
Dan Mielke
DeAnna Timmermann
Ruthi Davenport
Ted Atkinson
Greg Monahan
Pres. Davies

Others

Colleen Johnson

Meeting

Pres. - Looking at EOU and what is here and the challenges. What will we look like in 3 years? What is EOU?

Fac- Our first principle is that we move through a process of dealing with the economy that we are in and that after all of the decisions we remain collegial. That the process not become an us against them situation.

Pres. It would be easy to do an across the board cut but that is not possible. We need to avoid adversarial process. This is a meeting with all constituents and just a listening tour. This will be a series of University dialogues.

Fac. It is unavoidable to be of an adversarial nature, weighing one program against another. The current admin will take the heat. We need to start early to heal the hard decisions and feelings that are coming.

Pres There is currently a lot of discussion taking place and this will help prevent an adversarial situation from happening.

Fac. The reality is that the meat of the decisions will be made by a small group of people. We can not avoid pain.

Pres. The healing process in the fall is a very important point. How do we do that?

Fac. We are schizophrenic on the academic side. The dilemma is with having on campus courses competing with online courses for resources. What do you envision is your role in doing what is best for the university?

Pres. Schizophrenia is a good analogy. I have heard both side of the argument. Genie is out of the bottle. The discussion needs Pedagogical in nature. If students are on campus and taking classes online, we need to ask, why? Successful online students are different from successful on campus students.

Student Students do both because of the availability.

Fac. Most online courses are taught out of load on a cost per student basis. When online courses are available they pull students away from the same on campus offering. In the online environment the administration will allow a class to go forward with only one student.

Pres. Do not let the budget drive pedagogy.

Fac. The online process has been emerging. Now we are drawing students from all over the western hemisphere. We need to come to grips with the differences pedagogically between the two forms. We need to find a way to keep more of our students in all of our classes.

Pres. Fall enrollments are up.

Fac. We must find a way to attract new students to campus. How do we deliver the courses? How do we pay for them? We have moved some online classes to in load. The challenge is to see students as students regardless of where they are geographically.

Pres. Why did the University only go half way in merging the on campus and online programs?

Fac. The faculty can not agree that all students are the same. It is fundamentally better to take classes on campus.

Fac. We need to recognize the some students do not have choice and cannot come to campus. We need to meet the need for online courses.

Fac. The University must keep departmental control over individual programs and not use adjunct. Once you parcel out some of the teaching to outside sources you have lost control over your quality. Departmental faculty does not know their adjuncts. Some faculties teach as much on campus as they do on line, doing essentially two jobs. Some programs offer more online courses than others. Those programs heavily invested online have a difference with other programs. Another option is use non campus faculty to offer those courses. Is it cheaper to have a faculty teach in over load or have an adjunct to teach only online? Another approach is that any time a former faculty leaves then they are invited to teach any online courses that are offered. Who carries the other load?

Fac. Including all students in our head count affects how we parcel out the teaching load.

Pres. The dorms are a tipping point around the on campus and online tension. We should talk about enrollment as a complete package.

Fac. Our large online course offering is killing us with OUS. Liberal Studies degree allows for two minors if we lose a program then we lose all of the liberal studies majors with that minor. If a program has minors every two of those minor degrees should count for a major. The OUS does not understand how our system works. Majority of online students are non traditional students. Very few under thirty, employed single income and they can and will shop for a program that meets their needs. The dorms are an ongoing problem coupling the dorms with the on campus food service make for an expensive proposition. When you do a survey of the on campus students they can't wait to get off campus.

Student I paid more for food and residence than I did for tuition as freshmen. Not sure if it is only the price that is driving students from the dorms .The new dorms are not designed to help students network and build community. The students are not forming new relationships on campus.

Fac. There is nothing to do on campus or next to campus.

Fac. We are completely isolated for college students. We need a coffee house open into the night for studying and socializing. The problem is historic our students are not looking for a city experience. In the 60's and 70's the University brought in good acts for entertainment. Students now mostly get together online. Young people are online and not in the hallway. We need to be more innovative and look at technology based activities, based on wii or x-box.

Pres. The campus community needs to address student life issues. Dorms, food, activities all contribute to a vibrant campus.

Fac. There are 25% of students involved in intercollegiate athletics. We need to remember that we are a great distance from the metropolis and a small town. Our community represents the best aspects of the small town environment and we need to attract those students. Need to create a vibrant comfortable place.

Pre. Students here are not looking for a city experience, and we need to have a better balance of activities.

Fac. Remember some students see La Grande as a big town.

Fac. We have had some success in the past by defining who Eastern is as small liberal arts institution. Only 8 or 9 years ago grads from Eastern were 1or 2 in Grad School at the U of O. We have a reputation of sending more per capita students to grad school than any of the other small schools in the state. We have to talk about the quality of the faculty contributing to the post grad success of our students in a lot of our programs. Why are we not marketing to students who know they are going to grad school? We should market nationally to students who will be going to grad school. We have programs here that are offered no where else. Need to market our strengths. We can use students in business to help with marketing. Institutional advancement has not helped with the marketing effort and establishing our brand. We have argued about the website for a long time. We have the expertise on campus to make the changes and they have not been utilized. If and when they are consulted, their recommendations are not incorporated.

Fac. The council has assigned us with probationary accreditation status. How big a deal is this?

Pres. With a pres this is still not a slam dunk. We have till April to enhance and improve our report. There is some book keeping that needs to be taken care of.

Fac. What are the standards that we need to address in the report? We know that Assessment is one. How are we going to address this what is the plan?

Pres. Sara Witte has a plan and a structure is in place and thought the information was disseminated campus wide.

Fac. When you address the senate let us know in advance what the issue is or what the announcement is so we can get the message out to the faculty community. The former Assembly system was more social than the current Senate.

Fac The notion of who our students are needs to include the on site students as well.

Fac if you want to increase students need bring back baseball and rodeo and maybe golf not a huge expense for rodeo or golf. Title 9 is an issue and can use it for geographic parity and enrollment. Faculty lost their athletic passes to games.

Student The Student Incidental Fee Committee is funded by on campus students not by online students.

Fac. Athletic passes do not cost anything for the administration. Now we get one pass for each sport