**November**

OREGON INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY
Faculty Administrator Meeting

November 24, 2009

**ANNOUNCEMENTS AND COMMUNICATIONS**

***OUS Update- Chris Maples***

The Oregon University System (OUS) Board of Higher Education Retreat is scheduled for next week.  The topic of the meeting will include, mission statements and “rules of engagement.” The rules of engagement are an illustration of how institutions are expected to interact, recruit and exert their presence within the state of Oregon.

Jay Kenton just returned from an external review of the Idaho University System where they decided to divide up the state geographically among the schools.  Oregon Tech has a unique dual mission in the state with a regional obligation and President Maples stated that he is not willing to switch to such a system.

Discussion of the Frohnmayer Report is also expected to occur at the retreat.  President Maples stated that in his opinion there are two items missing from the report: 1) an executive summary 2) a resolution of the problems identified within the first pages of the report.  This began as a University of Oregon item but turned into a UO, OSU and PSU item.  The four smaller institutions were given the document as a courtesy the day before it was given to the legislators. President Maples stated that the opinions of the smaller institutions were moot at that point, and he was not was pleased with how it progressed.

The implications of reorganization are unknown; additional information will follow.

**Question**:  Is there still discussion about consolidating the Oregon University System and moving one of the campuses?

**Answer**:  The consolidation discussions are currently off the table.  No one in the legislature is willing to make the difficulty decision.

**REPORTS**

***Faculty Senate – Debbie Caldwell***

Debbie Caldwell congratulated Brad on his promotion to provost.

The Welfare Committee is reviewing policies and plans to work with Barb DeKalb to create faculty policies relating to distance education.

The Academic Standards Committee would like to receive input regarding the grading system.  Please keep in mind that a C- is not a passing grade and if the plus or minus system is implemented, an A+ will not be offered.

There is a possibility that that the curriculum maps will be removed from the catalog; departments are still encouraged to continue using departmental curriculum maps.

***Administrative Council – Tony Richey***

No report.

***Academic Council – Brad Burda***

Academic Council has not met.

Larry Powers accepted the position as interim dean for the School of Health Arts and Science effective January 1.

Brad Burda reported that the Boeing partnership and distance education provide a significant amount of revenue for Oregon Tech. Boeing is the process of decreasing the number of affiliations agreements with schools from 1,400 down to 200.  Oregon Tech applied to be one of the affiliated schools and is currently in the process of negotiations.  It is an unbelievable opportunity, and Brad is confident that Boeing will retain the partnership agreement with Oregon Tech.

Several Oregon Tech representatives attended the board of higher education meeting to discuss applied baccalaureate degrees.  The legislature is moving to allow community colleges within the state of Oregon to offer applied baccalaureate degrees.

**Question**:  If community colleges are going to offer baccalaureate degrees how will that affect universities?

**Answer**:   Very few community colleges within Oregon are anxious to offer these degrees; most would like to create partnerships with the universities.  A state wide steering committee is being created to address this topic.

**Q&A WITH PRESIDENT MAPLES**

President Maples reported that Clackamas Community College is now a smoke-free campus.  Since the east campus shares the same building as Clackamas it will also become a smoke-free campus.

**Question**:  Could we charge a smoking fee?

**Answer**:  I like revenue ideas and that is not a bad idea.

The legislature will meet for a special session in February.  It is anticipated that the revenue enhancements are going to fail; this will result in additional budget reductions.  The Oregon University System may face another 20% reduction in addition to the reductions that were already implemented.  If additional reductions are implemented, Oregon Tech will end up doing less with less; Oregon Tech will continue to maintain a high quality of what is delivered.

Oregon Tech implemented pay decreases to protect as many jobs as possible; however, this resulted in a decreased number of classified and unclassified staff to assist with balancing the budget.

**Q**.  Has there been talk about massive tuition increases similar to California?

**A**.  Yes, there is talk about substantial tuition increases, including a potential tuition increase this spring.  Last year Oregon Tech and other OUS institutions backfilled the Oregon Opportunity Grant with supplementary funds; it will be unfeasible to do that this year.

**Q**.  OSU recently passed and implemented furlough days, what are the plans for implementing furlough days at OIT?

**A**.  Oregon Tech was advised against implementation of furlough days by OUS legal counsel.  Oregon Tech will allow flexibility with furlough days.  Convocation was cut back significantly to compensate for furlough days; there may be additional days identified as furlough days.  When employees are on furloughs, they are not allowed to check email, come in the office etc.  I will follow up with legal counsel to get a better explanation.

**Q**. What is the consequence of violating the furlough constraint?

**A**.  I’m not sure, employees may be subject to disciplinary action.

**Q**.  When we are out on furloughs, how do we deal with students; do you send them home too?

**A**.  That is another reason we are not implementing furloughs or mandatory closures.  SOU will completely close all this week and December 15 – 31, 2009.  They are shutting down and offering fewer classes and fewer class days; I don’t see how we can do that.

**Q**.  How does that affect the credit hours?

**A**.  The students will cover the same amount of material, seat time is being shortened, and testing is completed outside of class time.  I could not imagine shorting seat time by one week; the courses we offer are tough.

**Q**.  Is it possible that the temporary pay reductions will become larger and last longer?

**A**.   It depends on how we address the budget deficit; it is a possibility.

**Q**.  Is there a possibility we could open a brew pub?

**A**.  I am very open to the idea.

**Q**.  Is there a big statewide movement that is promoting the tax bill; can we encourage people to vote to support schools?

**A**.  I don’t know what is out there and we are not at liberty to promote a particular movement.

**Q**.  Do our students know about the movement?

**A**.  Yes, ASOIT is promoting it and encouraging students to register to vote.

**Q**. You and others have mentioned the 11.5% budget reduction; do you plan to publish a one page summary of the reductions that were implemented detailing where they were taken?

**A**.  Absolutely, we can put together a one-page summary after Mary Ann returns.

Meeting adjourned: 3 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Marilyn Dyrud

adp