

Interinstitutional Faculty Senate

*129 Bates Hall, Oregon State University
Corvallis, OR
Saturday, February 7, 2009*

Present (IFS members): Joel Alexander (WOU), Lee Ayers (SOU), Duncan Carter (PSU), Janet Crum (OHSU), Peter Gilkey (UO), Gail Houck (OHSU), Jeff Johnson (EOU), Starr McMullen (OSU), Robert Mercer (PSU), Ike Nail (WOU), Jane Perri (OIT), Ron Reuter (OSU), Ellen Siem (SOU), Paul Simonds (UO),

Present (Guests): Dalton Miller-Jones (OUS Board), Rosemary Powers (OUS Board), Robert Turner (OUS)

IFS President Gilkey called the meeting to order at 8:32 AM.

Update on Learning Outcomes, Assessment, and IB

Bob Turner (8:30-9:05)

Turner reported on the campus visits he plans to make between now and May. These visits are based on the Chancellor's desire to talk with people outside higher education about student learning and accountability. The goal of these campus visits is to talk directly with faculty to get unfiltered information on what faculty are doing and how they perceive assessing learning outcomes and the relationship to accountability. **Bob would like us to find out which faculty on our campuses are working on learning outcomes**, so he can be sure to include them when he comes to our campuses. He will coordinate visits with provosts but will have faculty-only session(s) on each campus. He wants to leave each visit with:

- What's going on at each campus and possibly a best-practice case study
- A list of obstacles/negative perceptions
- A wish list of what could be done to enhance faculty efforts around these issues
- Ideas about what OUS can do to enhance, encourage, and/or change the perception of faculty around learning outcomes/assessment/accountability.

The goal is not to manipulate what's happening on campus or to find system-wide method of assessment/accountability.

Each campus is represented on the Learning Outcomes and Assessment Task Force, but those representatives are administrators, not faculty. Ayers is the only faculty member on that task force. By talking with faculty, Turner hopes to verify that what he is hearing from the task force represents what faculty are actually doing.

IFS members should email bob_turner@ous.edu with names of faculty involved in learning outcomes and assessment.

Turner also wants feedback from campuses on:

- Aligning IB course credit and diplomas across the system. There's a working group involved in this project. They hope to align IB credit in the same way that Advanced Placement is aligned--every community college and OUS campus gives the same amount of course credit for AP exam

scores. Right now, campuses are not consistent in how many credits they give for an IB diploma

Math standards: What math skills should be required for a high school graduate to get a diploma? OUS is putting together a survey of about 50 math problems. **Turner would like names of people who teach introductory non-math courses that assume some math competence (e.g. biology, chemistry, economics, and physics)**, so OUS can send them a survey to find out how important various math competencies are to their courses. OUS wants to know what exactly the students need to be able to do to be successful in these courses. They will match the survey results to the 50 problems. **Bob would also like to see any math pretests used in these disciplines.**

OUS math people believe that the current math standards are too rigorous for high school graduation. They have put together a list of arithmetic and numeracy standards that they consider to be more important.

Bob plans to ask math faculty if they see any benefit to supplying their math placement tests to K-12 as a concrete illustration of what incoming college students will be asked to do.

The OUS message to K-12 is that the K-12 math curriculum is too broad and not deep enough.

Discussion:

- Should we include upper-division courses that may also have math requirements? Bob asked that we include in our emails a list of all relevant courses.
- Ayers recommends that we involve people who will resist the most.
- What should a graduate from a particular school look like? Students themselves need to be able to articulate that. Some campuses around the country have goals on posters in hallways, indoctrinating students into what a liberal education really means.

Bob and Lee will report on this topic again at the next IFS meeting.

Update on AOF

Marie Vitulli (9:05-9:30)

Vitulli is president of the Associated Oregon Faculties and has come to IFS to forge a connection with us. AOF was formed in 1978 by members of IFS to promote the interests of faculty and professional staff throughout the state, mainly through lobbying the Legislature. AOF hired Mark Nelson, lobbyist and executive director, to represent AOF in Salem. Each campus in OUS entitled to have a representative on the AOF Executive Committee, and IFS is entitled to have 2 representatives on that body. According to Vitulli, IFS has not had a representative in a long time. Representatives must be AOF members, but we can send non-members to sit in. AOF meets monthly in Salem and monitors legislation that has any relationship to higher education.

AOF's current concerns:

- Expanding the tuition reduction program so that it covers more than one person in school at a time
- Tier 3 (OPSRP) members who may get poor employer contributions to retirement

- Classified staff in Oregon will get step increases but not COLAs. AOF will advocate for faculty to get something comparable.

AOF is part of the Higher Education Lobbying Network (HELN) and a member of the PERS Coalition. AOF has a political action community, the Oregon Faculties PAC, which monitors legislative races and directs money to candidates who seem friendly to higher education.

Vitulli is in her second year as president. She would like more faculty involvement and wants to have an annual meeting that includes more than just the AOF Executive Committee.

She would like ideas on how AOF and IFS might work together. She distributed copies of an AOF newsletter that includes contact information.

Discussion

- OHSU is not represented on the AOF Executive Committee. They have members at OHSU but haven't heard from anyone there in a long time. Vitulli asked the IFS members from OHSU to spread the word that there's an opening on the AOF Executive Committee for OHSU.
- There used to be annual meetings with AOF, AAUP, and IFS, but they haven't happened for awhile, in part because attendance was low. Measure 5 increased attendance for several years. Maybe our current crisis will bring it back.
- Participation in these types of things has waned as promotion and tenure requirements have become more rigorous. People don't participate as much in activities unless those activities help their chances for promotion/tenure.
- Some members expressed concern about Mark Nelson's connections to the tobacco, beer, and wine industries. Vitulli said that if people who are concerned get involved, AOF could discuss addressing that issue. Some people say he's the most powerful lobbyist in Salem, so it's good that he represents higher education, while others say that his other interests aren't compatible with ours.
- AOF was a major player when OUS unilaterally decreased the employer contribution to ORP. This change was undone.

Discussion re: IFS participation in AOF

(9:30-10:00)

After Vitulli departed, IFS discussed representation on the AOF Executive Committee. The group decided that we would invite Marie to send us information as she feels appropriate, but we do not wish to send a formal representative or observer to AOF at this time. During the discussion, there was much support for IFS involvement in HELN. We have an official position in HELN, but no one has ever been named. We need someone from an institution in proximity to Salem. HELN meets monthly. Turner recommends that we let the Chancellor know that we would like to be actively involved in HELN. McMullin and Ayers expressed interest depending on the meeting schedule and time constraints. Peter will talk with Chancellor Pernsteiner to learn the parameters of the job and report back. We will choose a representative via email.

Provosts Council Report

Jeff Johnson (10:00-10:10)

Johnson gave a report on Provosts Council activities.

JBAC Report

Robert Mercer (10:10-10:20)

Mercer reported that JBAC has not met since the last IFS meeting. Much of their work continues in various subgroups and the UEE (United Educational Enterprise). Work on general education outcomes continues.

Background on JBAC: JBAC stands Joint Boards Articulation Committee. It includes representatives from the OUS Board and the State Board of Education. They work on transfer and other alignment issues between community colleges and OUS. One of their major agreements is the AAOT (Associate of Arts Oregon Transfer) Degree.

Provosts Council Report

Rosemary Powers (10:20-10:25)

Powers also reported on the most recent Provosts Council meeting.

Board Meeting Report / President's Report

Jane Perri (10:25-10:55)

A recent study looked at how schools are being funded from state vs. tuition rates compared to peers. Gilkey distributed slides yesterday that present the results of the study.

The Board approved several new degree programs and authorized OUS to award honorary degrees. Various reports were presented, and a diversity policy was presented.

The Board discussed restructuring duties and roles of state board. A policy is under discussion; a copy of that policy will be posted to the IFS web site. Under that policy, the Board would only meet five times per year. They would form three committees to do most of the work. IFS members expressed concern about faculty representation on these committees and whether we will only have a voice when issues come to the full board for approval. Concern was also expressed that the Board seems to be moving toward a corporate model that may reduce faculty input into decisions. Gilkey will consult with Turner, Miller-Jones, and Powers to prepare a reasoned statement expressing concern about these issues on behalf of the IFS.

Gilkey thanked everyone who prepares reports for the IFS.

Campus Reports

(10:55-11:25)

SOU

Academic program reviews are underway. They are looking at statistical data and developing snapshots of departments. These snapshots will make information readily available for accreditation and provide baseline data to show improvement over time. They are searching for a new dean of the College of Arts and Letters. Their enrollment is up 5.4% for winter quarter, which is very good because winter enrollment usually dips.

OIT

OIT's health science building is almost completed and should open ahead of schedule. They have started drilling a deep water well. If all goes as planned, they will be off the grid by fall. That will eliminate \$500,000 electric bill per month and will allow the campus to earn about \$100,000 per year selling energy back to the city. They will use stimulus money to repair roofs that collapsed last year.

OSU-Cascades

Enrollment increased 5% for fall term, but COCC saw a 20% increase in enrollment. Some of those 20% are OSU students who are taking all COCC classes, so they don't get counted.

EOU

They are nearly ready to have campus interviews of presidential candidates. The President and Provost called a campus-wide emergency meeting in which they were very candid about the financial issues the campus faces. Do people on other campuses seem aware of the coming financial crisis? Based on reports from IFS members, awareness varies both within and across campuses.

PSU

The PSU Faculty Senate has discussed campus-wide learning objectives, and PSU is reviewing services provided to high-achieving students. They are trying to cut budgets without cutting courses.

OHSU

OHSU's IT and HR departments have been cut dramatically. As a result, they are restructuring and reducing services. Members of the campus community appreciate the open communication they have received about the fiscal crisis from the President. The faculty are providing feedback on OHSU's new strategic plan. Faculty have expressed concern about corporatization, especially the difference between the academic vision and concerns about the bottom line.

WOU

WOU is being revisited by an accreditation team. They are working on program review and assessment. There is increasing concern about next year's budget, but they are mostly focused on accreditation right now.

OSU

OSU is hiring a new Dean of Agriculture and a Vice Associate Provost for International Programs. They are not canceling any searches yet. Chancellor Pernsteiner is attending the OSU Faculty Senate meeting on Thursday. There probably will be more concern about the budget after that meeting.

UO

They have broken ground on a new basketball stadium. Their presidential search continues. There is concern that only one candidate may come to campus. The UO Faculty Senate has addressed new Conflict of Interest and Conflict of Commitment policies. The Conflict of Interest policy is primarily driven by federal and state laws and addresses dealings with outside entities. Under the proposed Conflict of Commitment policy, faculty would have been limited to spending no more than one day in seven on outside activities. That policy has been withdrawn.

New High School Diploma

Turner (11:25 - 11:45)

Turner reported on the new Oregon high school diploma. It contains new standards for competency in essential skills--reading, writing, speaking, and math—which apply to current high school freshmen.

Every teacher is responsible for addressing these essential skills, regardless of subject they teach. Proficiency in these essential skills is required for graduation.

OUS has drafted a new policy in support of the new diploma. This policy would grant automatic admission to students with a minimum GPA and demonstration of essential skills using SAT, ACT, or OAKS scores in reading, writing, and math. The new diploma allows for local assessments generated, administered, and scored at local school district level, but scores on local instruments could not be used for automatic admission. Provosts Council has passed this new policy.

GPA and minimum exam scores would be set by OUS but would not necessarily be the same as the ones set by ODE to demonstrate proficiency for graduation. OUS lacks the capacity to take every student who demonstrates proficiency at the levels set by ODE.

Current admissions policies include minimum requirements for admission, which are adjusted annually and approved by the Board. In about 2 years, automatic admission will become a component of admission policy. Required scores will be set based on prediction of success at OUS institutions and the capacity of OUS. Turner would like the scores set at a level that would reserve capacity to admit out-of-state students and underrepresented students. Admissions professionals are concerned about the word "automatic." They see this policy as removing their flexibility.

Discussion

- Concern about cases in which someone qualifies for automatic admission but has some characteristics that makes campuses not want to admit him/her (e.g. felony conviction).
- There is also a move to remove SAT/ACT scores from required admission materials. If that happens, students could choose not to submit these scores, but then they wouldn't qualify for automatic admission.
- OSU is emphasizing non-cognitive, non-academic criteria (measured with an essay) in admission requirements. They want to know more about student than just grades and test scores.
- Automatic admission standards would be the same across all campuses. Standards for standard admission would vary by campus.

Next IFS meeting

(11:45)

The next IFS meeting will be at WOU in April.

The meeting adjourned at 11:47 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

Janet Crum
Secretary, Interinstitutional Faculty Senate

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