

Interinstitutional Faculty Senate

*Hamersley Library HL 107
Western Oregon University
Monmouth, OR
Saturday, April 4, 2009*

Present (IFS members): Joel Alexander (WOU), Lee Ayers (SOU), Janet Crum (OHSU), Peter Gilkey (UO), Grant Kirby (OIT), Kirsten Lampi (OHSU), Kerry Loewen (EOU), B. Starr McMullen (OSU), Ron Reuter (OSU), John Rueter (PSU), Paul Simonds (UO), Joanne Sorte (OSU)

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

Provost Council Report - Rosemary Powers (8:30-8:40)

Powers reported that the Provost Council discussed the following issues:

- Race and ethnicity reporting requirement from the federal government
- A report on training of campus public safety officers, who are interested in getting college credit for this training
- A proposal from EOU for Associate of Arts programs. EOU had some associate programs, because they have historically served as a community college for the region. They are considering bringing these programs back.
- A report from the Learning Outcomes Task Force

Oregon State Board of Higher Education meeting report - Peter Gilkey, Dalton Miller-Jones, Rosemary Powers (8:40- 10:00)

The Board discussed the following topics:

- Participation and Completion Committee: Lots of their work is on the back burner due to budget issues. Three proposals are still being considered, one of which relates to faculty development to help faculty work with students to help them complete their programs.
- Potential budget cuts, especially to OSU Extension
- Tuition increases: This topic led to an extended IFS discussion on extra fees for certain programs.

Chancellor Pernsteiner wants IFS to comment on two new Board policies announced at yesterday's meeting. Both relate to faculty control of curriculum. Gilkey will send us information about what he wants from us to report to the Chancellor. He would like us to take these policies to our faculty senates for comment, then pass that feedback on to him for his next report to the Board. He would also like us to share our reactions with him, so he can take that information to the Board as well. These policies are:

- A requirement that provosts report to the Board on all programs with fewer than 5 graduates over 5 years
- A requirement that provosts report to the Board on all classes with fewer than 10 enrollees.

The IFS discussed both policies extensively.

Following on this discussion, the IFS discussed policies and practices related to online classes at the various OUS institutions. Gilkey asked Ayers to work with IFS to identify these policies and practices as the basis for a potential report to the Board.

Break (10:00-10:15)

Approval of minutes and thanks (10:15-10:20)

McMullen moved to approve all the posted minutes on the web. Simonds seconded. Minutes approved unanimously.

Gilkey thanked Alexander for arranging the IFS meeting here at WOU.

4.6% salary/FTE reduction - Dalton Miller-Jones and Rosemary Powers (10:20-11:05)

Miller-Jones reported that the issue received extensive discussion at the Board meeting, after which the Board decided that OUS salary costs shall be reduced by 4.6%. This decision was triggered by the Governor's decision to furlough state employees for 12 days per year over the next biennium.

An extended discussion followed, which included ways that OUS institutions are reducing salary costs. At the end, the IFS agreed to craft a statement regarding the mandated reduction in salary costs.

Campus reports

SOU: Faculty Senate discussed salary rollbacks. Step increases will be met, and promotion/tenure decisions will move forward. Still hiring faculty but have put some administrative positions on hold. Enrollment up 5% this year; applications for next year are up. Sharing enrollment with UO for some programs.

OHSU: Cuts to IT, HR, Facilities (i.e. various support units); budget targets not released yet. Concern about retaining faculty who bring in grant funds.

WOU: Hired 2 new positions; 15% cut to S&S budget; cutting and consolidating positions; don't appear to be cutting major programs. Tuition Promise will continue.

EOU: Hired 1 of 2 open positions in math. New president hired -- Bob Davies. Accreditation - probationary status, primarily due to leadership problems. Steve Martin funding a production of a play on the EOU campus after it was banned in a local high school. Proposed budget cuts released for comment. First draft coming later this month.

OIT: Program Reduction Elimination Committee underway - everything on the table; open comment period now. No travel. Cutting costs wherever possible. Healthy sense of community. President very open. Management dept has lost nearly half its staff over the last year. Low salaries hampering recruitment efforts.

OSU-Cascades: Hired at least one new instructor. No tenure-track hires recently. Enrollment up in winter. Applications up. Had been discussing a \$1 million per year cut. Now it's a \$1.4 million cut (30%) and could be even more. Have put new engineering program on hold. Thinking about a new sustainability program. Administration has suggested that faculty participate in community organizations and become vocal supporters of the campus in the community.

OSU: New Center for Children & Healthy Families director position open; recruitment not going well, probably due to low salary. Unsuccessful recruiting for endowed chair, probably for the same reason. More unionization activities. Recruiting Dean of Agriculture. Construction happening. Conversation about funding for Extension and Agricultural Experiment Station. Administrators took a 4.6% salary reduction. Faculty were asked to consider a voluntary reduction.

PSU: President very transparent about budget cuts. Spring enrollment very strong, and spring is usually a soft time. Up 10.7% - strongest enrollment in system. Tenure-track searches proceeding. Faculty Senate passed campus learning goals--engagement, internationalization, sustainability, and more. Lot of talk about governance--several Faculty Senate committees looking at that. Should they return to a Faculty Senate made of tenured/teaching line faculty plus a general university body that represents everyone. Big Ideas Committee considering how to deal with the budget crisis in a way that doesn't destroy the ability for healthy growth after the crisis is over.

UO: Enrollment up for winter and spring; usually drops in winter and spring. 2 different organizations are trying to unionize the faculty. Concern about what unionization would mean for shared governance. New president coming in; could revisit faculty governance. Might consider separate Senate bodies for teaching faculty and others. Women's basketball coach replaced.

Wrapup

Gilkey thanked IFS members for attending today and asked us to email agenda items for the next meeting. He will email us about issues on which he needs our feedback. The June IFS meeting will be at OHSU, in the same room as last time. Gilkey asked all of us in the Portland area to attend the coffee with the Board at PSU in June.

Miller-Jones thanked us for our attentiveness, input, and creativity at this meeting.

The IFS thanked Miller-Jones and Powers for their valuable participation.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:55 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

Janet Crum
Secretary, Interinstitutional Faculty Senate

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