

# Interinstitutional Faculty Senate

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*Market Center Building, Room 541  
Portland State University  
Portland, OR  
Saturday, December 5, 2009*

**Present (Senators):** Joel Alexander (WOU), Sarah Andrews-Collier (PSU), Sharyl Carpenter (EOU), Duncan Carter (PSU), Janet Crum (OHSU), Dejing Dou (UO), Peter Gilkey (UO), Jeff Johnson (EOU), Grant Kirby (OIT), B. Starr McMullen (OSU), Erin Moore (UO), Ike Nail (WOU), Ron Reuter (OSU Cascades), Maureen Sevigny (OIT), Ellen Siem (SOU), Joanne Sorte (OSU)

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

IFS President Gilkey called the meeting to order at 8:15 AM.

## Provosts Council Report

Johnson reported that the Provosts Council met as usual, followed by a joint meeting of the OUS and community college chief academic officers to discuss semester conversion. In the provosts-only part of the meeting, they discussed David Frohnmeyer's proposal.

It appeared that there are still some hard feelings among the community colleges from the last consideration of semesters 10 years ago. The community colleges felt excluded from that process. It seemed like there was little interest in moving to a semester system. The community colleges were concerned that a semester schedule wouldn't work as well for their technical programs, some of which don't last for a full term. Johnson thinks there won't be a push for semester conversion unless encouraged by the Legislature.

## Discussion

The Provosts Council is required to submit a report on advisability of semester conversion.

Some see the applied baccalaureate degree as a move toward community colleges offering bachelor's degrees, but the community colleges aren't interested in doing that. Instead, partnerships between OUS institutions and community colleges are seen as the most functional and viable way to proceed with applied baccalaureate programs.

An applied baccalaureate program already exists in Oregon - business administration at SOU.

There is a desire to help adults who didn't finish a bachelor's to get their degrees.

Is access an issue they are trying to address? The partnerships that are being developed (or could be developed) are seen as a way to improve access. They don't see applied baccalaureate as necessary for this.

SOU's and OIT's applied baccalaureate programs are online.

## Campus Reports

EOU: Enjoying a moment of peace and calm. National search for provost. New president.

OIT: They have been working for 2 years to revise their comparator list, and a draft will be coming to their Faculty Senate for review. The faculty have been very involved. Their acting provost has been appointed as provost. Several other administrative positions are also held by interims. There is much respect on the campus for the OSU furlough vote as an example of shared governance.

SOU: They have been tightening their belts. Things that normally happen quickly are taking longer. Their new provost, who has been there about a year, is working on a campus master plan and strategic plan. They are moving into the operational phase of that process. The president is in her fourth year. She is committed to transparency in decision-making and policy, which is producing a collegial atmosphere. They have developed a new testing center on campus to prepare for a possible H1N1 outbreak. Their course catalog is now available only online. They are discussing putting course evaluations online. Enrollment is the highest since 2004, up 4% from last fall, and FTE is up 2.1% from last fall. They have the highest number of minority students (12.7%) and transfer students they have ever had. They lost positions due to budget cuts, and they took their 4.5% salary cut as furloughs (voted on by faculty). Everyone took their furloughs together around Thanksgiving.

UO: There is some discussion of unionizing all faculty and officers of administration. Classified staff are already unionized. The number of international students has increased over the last couple of years. They have about 200 undergraduate students from China and expect more students from China in the future. They are discussing furloughs and have had some town hall meetings. Right now, UO has no plans for furloughs for faculty or officers of administration. They do plan to meet budget reduction targets, and they are continuing to hire. They have a lot more students and therefore more revenue, which is helping with the budget situation. Classified staff took furloughs.

WOU: A few years ago, WOU was in dire financial straits, and the Legislature forbade them from raising tuition. That forced them to retrench. The cuts were frightening initially, but things worked out well. Administrators took furloughs, but faculty are not. Faculty have a tentative new contract. They are not hiring very actively, though they did do some hiring last year. There are very long lines for most student services. They run a bare-bones operation under a conservative financial approach. Their Tuition Promise is threatened at this point, especially if their reserves are taken by state. Western has excellent recruitment and retention of students, especially Latinos. The Tuition Promise encourages Oregon students to commit to the university. Faculty are working with library and others to stockpile textbooks for checkout, so students don't have to buy books, especially textbooks that have new editions every few years with few changes.

PSU: The faculty union negotiated salary reductions ranging from 1 to 4.3% depending on salary level (people with lower salaries get smaller cuts). The contract can be reopened by either side in March, which could lead to larger or smaller reductions depending on the budget situation. Enrollment is up by about 8.5% and nearly 10% in College of Liberal Arts, which has produced an increase of about \$4 million in revenue. They will use 10% to create new sections in overloaded areas, 50% to rebuild capacity (fill open positions, rehire instructors let go), 30% for new initiatives, and 10% for graduate assistant salaries. The faculty are concerned that they're taking salary reductions when new money is

available. They are hiring for a newly-created position, Chief Diversity Officer, which will give diversity issues a high profile. A big gift will be announced next week. Efforts are underway to rethink the Faculty Senate, and an ad hoc committee is working on revising the constitution. The faculty has changed since the current constitution was written, with an increase in fixed-term faculty. Under the current system, fixed-term faculty end up adjudicating promotions for tenured faculty. The President has a compact with local community colleges. He has offered for PSU to go to semester system. The entire campus will be closed December 18-28. Employees will need a pass to get into buildings during that time, e.g. to care for lab animals. Faculty will take their furlough days during that time, but the salary reduction will be spread over a longer time. The closure is creating a problem for final grades. Students won't be able to access grades or register, because electronic systems are being shut down. But taking furloughs over the holiday break is good for adjuncts and graduate assistants, because their pay won't be cut.

OSU: The OSU Faculty Senate voted to implement salary reductions following the PSU model. Students opposed this move, wanting faculty supported by student fees to be exempt from reductions. They have their highest enrollment ever on the Corvallis campus, and their research dollars are at their highest ever. New buildings are being financed by private individuals. OSU has had a strategic plan in place. Now they are reconfiguring the college structure into divisions in accordance with the strategic plan. This is a difficult time for those conversations because of budget reductions. Coming up: a conversation about statewide programs like the agricultural experiment station and the extension service. These are funded as separate line items and are not associated with student dollars; therefore they are taking a hit. They expect that they may have to close an experiment station if they take more cuts. Graduate assistants will not be affected by furloughs.

OSU Cascades: They have a 23% increase in enrollment and a 19% increase in FTE. They are disconnected from the Corvallis campus budget and received an increase in funding this year. They are concerned that if they take furloughs in solidarity with the OSU Corvallis campus, they won't be spending the money allocated by the Legislature, so the Legislature might not give them as much next time. COCC bond measure passed, providing money for them to build new buildings. A new COCC student center opened this fall; it is very nice and looks like a university student union building. The faculty and staff are focusing on sustainability, both financial and environmental. They have committees working on sustainability issues.

OHSU: OHSU's new CFO departed unexpectedly only a few weeks after he was appointed. They don't know anything definite about the FY11 budget yet, but clinical revenue is up – a good sign. They have received lots of grants funded with stimulus money, including a large grant to the library to create a database of research resources. Planning continues for the waterfront campus. Classified staff agreed to a new union contract, which provides a 1% bonus this year instead of the customary 3% cost of living increase.

## **Election of Officers for 2010**

Secretary: Crum re-elected as IFS secretary. All previous minutes approved unanimously.

Provost Council: Alexander called for nominations for Provosts Council representative. Gilkey nominated himself, and Siem nominated Charles Lane from SOU.

A discussion ensued about financial support for IFS positions. The IFS president receives a course release in winter and spring. The representative to the Provosts Council no longer receives a course release, though in the past s/he did. The Provosts Council will meet via videoconference in January and February. The Provosts Council representative also attends Academic Strategies Committee meetings. The Provosts Council used to meet in conjunction with Board meetings. With the Board's new schedule, they meet in conjunction with the Academic Strategies Committee. The Provosts Council, on their own initiative based on time, carbon footprint, etc., decided that much of their business could be done electronically.

The IFS discussed lack of funding for representation on the Provosts Council, as well as the meeting schedule. The Chancellor's Office has paid travel expenses for an IFS member to participate; we haven't been notified that the funding will be discontinued.

Siem gave background on Charles Lane. He was interim provost at SOU, shadowed a provost in Texas, and is interested in anything related to the work of provosts.

Further discussion ensued regarding IFS representation to the Provosts Council. There was concern that the election process was not discussed sufficiently in advance, so potential candidates may not have had the opportunity to arrange support on their campuses.

A motion was made to table the election until the meeting schedule is determined. It passed with 6 in favor and 2 opposed.

## **BREAK 10:15-10:30**

### **Provosts Council Report (continued)**

Turner distributed the meeting schedule for the Provosts Council in 2010.

The IFS discussed changing its meeting schedule:

- Most Board meetings will be held at PSU. Should we have all our meetings in Portland in conjunction with Board meetings?
- We want to avoid scheduling IFS meeting opposite Provosts Council or Board meetings in different locations.
- We want to schedule meetings when the Chancellor is available to meet with us.
- Some members enjoy meeting at the different campuses.
- The Chancellor has houses in Portland and Eugene.
- There was a concern about giving up the ability to be present at Board meetings
- Should we meet in conjunction with the Academic Strategies Committee? That would give us access to the Chancellor, but they meet on Thursdays, which would require a greater commitment from IFS members to attend.
- Can we reinstitute the coffees with the Board?
- We could meet in January and March at OHSU and PSU in conjunction with the next 2 Board meetings. But is it more important to meet in conjunction with the Provosts Council and Academic Strategies in February and April?
- Structural changes will be handled by the Governance Committee, which includes Rosemary. It is important to stay in close contact with them.

A motion was made to schedule IFS meetings in January, March, and May in Portland. Discussion:

- Miller-Jones and Powers can request to move Board meetings to certain times and days (e.g. meet in June, not July)
- We are facing momentous issues, so we need to make accommodations to participate.
- It's a lot of work to host IFS. Changing the schedule to meet in Portland will increase the burden on PSU. Joel will see if funds are available to help defray the cost of hosting IFS meetings.
- Could we meet elsewhere and use teleconferences?

Friendly amendment was made to remove May from the motion.

More discussion:

- On January 8, we will have just gone back into session. How substantive will the Board meeting be? Will restructuring be addressed? There will be a report at the Board meeting and possibly discussion but no decision.

**The motion passed unanimously with one abstention.**

Miller-Jones said we could ask Board to move its meeting scheduled for July to June to allow for greater faculty input.

Someone suggested that we instruct our Board members to ask the Board to consider the academic calendar when scheduling meetings. But there's some sentiment on the Board to have no academic representation on the Board.

Can we ask incoming IFS president Alexander to share our concerns with the Chancellor and let him know that we've asked Powers and Miller-Jones to make this request of the Board?

## **Board update (Powers and Miller-Jones)**

The Board had little time to review Frohnmeyer's proposal before discussing it. There was a rumor that universities would be privatized; the public corporation concept was not well understood. There were concerns about the effect of structural changes on collective bargaining. The Board retreat consisted of 30 people and not many small group discussions.

The discussion was positive. The principles outlined in the Chancellor's handout, Structural Changes to Be Considered, provide a way to push back and ensure that students at all schools are considered. Board members emphasized the importance of public education.

Miller-Jones is concerned that faculty and students haven't weighed in on the proposal formally. He recommends that we include our concerns and offer an alternative that addresses the issues and concerns to which Frohnmeyer's report is a response. He recommends that IFS allow him and Powers to prepare a working document for IFS, to which IFS would respond. Then consider gathering a group of people to address it. Frohnmeyer's proposal could potentially eliminate our ability to work as a unified group. The proposal assumes that the Legislature will provide funding, but he doesn't think that will happen. We have been successful in getting funding by working with the Legislature as a system.

The timing of the January meeting is optimal, because if they can prepare a working document, it could be presented at the January meeting.

High tuition and high financial aid are explicit in the Frohnmeyer model. This model has been used by private colleges. In the public sector, high aid isn't necessarily possible. That model works for institutions with large endowments, public or private.

## **New Business**

### **People rotating off IFS**

Peter thanked those who are rotating off the IFS. He asked those rotating off to email him information for the new representatives from their institutions. He will update the listserv in early January with the new members.

### **Election of Vice President**

Gilkey nominated Jeff Johnson of EOU, who has contacts through his work with the Provosts Council and has served on IFS on and off for 16 years.

Discussion:

Johnson commented that we have a tradition of alternating the presidency between regionals and large schools. If we elect Johnson this time, we need to be sure to elect someone from a large school next year. Normally the IFS president is from a large campus when the Legislature is in session. But Gilkey commented that he had little time with the Legislature last year, and the Legislature has gone to de facto annual sessions.

Johnson was elected by acclamation.

### **Selecting Webmaster**

Gilkey will continue as IFS webmaster.

### **Election of Provosts Council Representative**

Gilkey departed. Alexander called for additional nominations. Someone suggested that we defer the election till the next meeting, since we're meeting in January.

Alexander encouraged everyone on the IFS to consider the position.

Nail moved to defer the election to the January meeting. Crum seconded. Discussion:

- Someone asked for clarification regarding what the representative will be attending, given the new meeting structure. Academic Strategies Committee and Provosts Council will continue to meet monthly. The commitment is more than just meeting time: IFS wants a representative to attend the Academic Strategies Committee meeting even if the provosts meet electronically.
- Johnson will provide some information on the nature and extent of the commitment to include with the call for nominations, which will be emailed out.

The motion passed unanimously with one abstention.

The meeting adjourned at 11:40 AM.

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