

**MEETING #381  
OREGON STUDENT ASSISTANCE COMMISSION  
Friday, February 27, 2009**

**Chemeketa Community College  
Salem, OR**

**COMMISSIONERS**

Bridget Burns, Chair  
Cap Sharples, Vice-Chair  
Mike Filippelli  
Dean Wendle  
Philip Shilts  
Bart Howard  
Brian Lemos

**STAFF**

Dennis Johnson, Executive Director  
Beverly Boyd, Executive Assistant  
Susan Degen, Oregon Opportunity Grant Administrator  
Alan Contreras, ODA Administrator  
Carrie Matsushita, Marketing & Development Specialist

**GUESTS**

Margie Lowe – Governor’s Office  
Bill McGee – Budget and Management Division

**CALL TO ORDER**

Commission Chair Bridget Burns called the meeting to order at 10:20 a.m. All Commissioners were in attendance. Having a quorum, the meeting proceeded.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Commissioner Mike Filippelli made a motion to approve the minutes for Meeting #379 January 8, 2009 and Meeting #380 January 23, 2009. Commissioner Philip Shilts seconded the motion, and by unanimous vote the January 8 and January 23, 2009 minutes were approved.

**COMMISSION CHAIR’S REPORT**

Commissioner Burns stated that times are tough right now. She attended the SRM Steering Committee Meeting earlier this week at Chemeketa and is back for the Commission Meeting. She commented that holding some of the Commission Meetings by conference call will help save on the cost of travel.

**ODA ADMINISTRATOR’S REPORT**

Alan Contreras, ODA Administrator, reminded the Commission that Carolyn Sinclair will be retiring at the end of March. He will not be filling her position until the new biennium.

He gave a brief overview of the ODA report, one of the handouts in the meeting packets.

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S REPORT**

**Reductions to current operating budget**

Dennis Johnson gave a brief overview of the reductions already in place and stated that we would be saving considerable dollars this biennium by having Commission meetings via conference call. Conference call rates have greatly reduced, making this a very cost-effective way to conduct meetings. In addition to these savings, a limited duration position was terminated early, creating additional vacancy savings beyond the two ASPIRE vacancies and an office specialist vacancy.

Commissioner Brian Lemos asked about how the additional duties, created by these vacancies, were being handled. Dennis Johnson stated that OSAC staff have stepped up to the plate and are taking up the slack. There

has been no overtime increase. The staff morale is good. Staff attending the meeting confirmed this. Brian stated that the more positive we stay, the better we project our commitment.

### **Scholarship and Access Update**

- **eApp:** Dennis Johnson gave an overview of the increase in scholarship applications overall and the decrease in paper applications. He stated that the eApp has created new and different challenges from the paper application, especially with the submission of transcripts. It is a time consuming effort to match the transcripts to the applications. We have many volunteers processing the applications. This year is a learning experience. Discussion commenced around the possibility of creating one deadline next year and the reasons for having an early bird deadline.
- **College Goal Oregon:** Dennis stated that College Goal Oregon has been a great success, going from 11 cities and 15 sites in 2007, 17 cities and 20 sites in 2008, to 24 cities and 28 sites in 2009. There were well over 200 volunteers and close to 3,000 families were served. No other states have demonstrated growth like this. The needs are great in Oregon and we met the challenge.

Commissioner Sharples noted the increased number of older students, in the 40-50 age range, who are also in need of financial assistance. He stated that unfortunately, the FAFSA is geared for the younger applicants.

### **Oregon Opportunity Grant report**

- **OOG Disbursements:** Dennis gave a brief overview of the rapidly changing disbursement report provided in the handouts. He stated that we do not have the final Winter quarter disbursements at this time.

Susan Degen noted that the report is still not complete, the deadline is midnight tonight.

Commissioner Dean Wendle asked about further reductions, which Margie Lowe spoke to.

Margie stated that she thinks the expectations are that there will be no further reductions to awards. However, if there is a balance leftover and the May 15th revision comes in lower than expected, they may recapture those dollars to balance those numbers. The trend we are seeing is good. She stated that the Legislature does not want to touch the awards again this academic year.

- **Late FAFSA Filers**

Dennis and the Commission discussed the pie charts. In response to Commissioner Howard's question of how many students we would have served without the deadline, Dennis stated that after December 1, it would have been close to 5,000.

Susan Degen said this number would have been even larger, taking into consideration the students who did not enroll for Fall but planned to enroll for Winter or Spring.

Concerns regarding students enrolling in programs that do not start in the Fall or courses that are only offered once a year were discussed.

- **FAFSA Filers for 2009-10**

Application trends of FAFSA filers was reviewed. Dennis stated that the FAFSA application is moving forward in record breaking trends.

Commissioner Lemos would like to see minority data reported. FAFSA does not collect this information.

- **Possible Funding Levels for 2010-11**

Dennis briefed the Commission on the increased funding levels for the Pell Grant and Tax Credits, referring to handouts in the meeting packet.

- **Recommendations from February 24<sup>th</sup> Steering Committee Meeting**

Dennis talked about calculating the student share and stated the Steering Committee Working Group has recommended eliminating the differential between two- and four-year students. This will be coming to the Commission for approval.

We need to have an estimator tool in place as soon as possible. Dennis asked Margie Lowe what the progress was awaiting approval by the Co-Chairs of Ways and Means.

Margie said she met with each of the Co-Chairs, Margaret Carter and Peter Buckley, to discuss the proposal for awarding decisions. She said Co-Chair Carter understands the difficulty and agrees that we need to give the families something to work with.

Margie stated that Co-Chair Carter was comfortable with sending it out but that Co-Chair Buckley didn't feel he could provide a recommendation and wanted to wait until next week to send out the estimator. If it does go out, it will go out with many provisos and precautions. The message to families needs to be to apply early. She also said that families need to understand that the increase in federal funds could be offset by lower state funds.

Commissioner Wendle asked to have a white paper prepared to use when discussing these issues with Legislators. Margie will work with Carrie Matsushita and Susan Degen on this.

## **LEGISLATIVE UPDATE**

### **Bill Tracking**

Dennis discussed the bill tracker and the fact that we are being encouraged to note if we are pro/con/neutral on a bill.

Margie said they are telling agencies even if a bill has minor fiscal impact, if it requires resources from another agency, do not support. We can't support something that is going to increase costs for another agency.

Dennis stated that we can't recommend it if it is not GRB. If it will have an impact on us, we will do a fiscal impact.

It was suggested that fiscal impact statements be sent to the Commissioners. Susan Degen said we will email what we send in. Then it was decided that the Commissioners would request copies of the statements they are interested in rather than receiving all of them. A column will be created to note if a fiscal impact statement is completed.

### **Hearing Schedule**

Dennis stated that we will be presenting to Ways and Means around April 13, 14 or 15.

## **OTHER BUSINESS AND ADJOURNMENT**

### **Upcoming Meetings and Venues**

Dennis requested that we have two of the next four meetings by phone. The March meeting could be done by conference call instead of Salem. He believes it would be better to meet in Salem after getting results from OSAC budget hearings in April. The May meeting would be a conference call and June would be in Eugene, since it is the last meeting of the biennium and the last meeting of this Commission as it consists now. All agreed.

There being no other business, Commissioner Burns moved to adjourn the meeting at 12:20 p.m. and Commissioner Filippelli seconded the motion.

Respectfully submitted,

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*Dennis R. Johnson, Executive Director*

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*Bridget Burns, Chair*

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*Cap Sharples, Vice-Chair*

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*Mike Filippelli, Commissioner*

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*Dean Wendle, Commissioner*

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*Philip Shilts, Commissioner*