MEETING #401
OREGON STUDENT ASSISTANCE COMMISSION
Friday July 23, 2010
Office of the Commission – Columbia Room
Eugene, OR

COMMISSIONERS
Bart Howard, Chair
Brian Lemos, Vice Chair
Cap Sharples
Bridget Burns
Glenda Melton
Alethia Miller
Ben Eckstein (Phone)

STAFF
Mike Marsh, Interim Executive Director
Beverly Boyd, Executive Assistant
Susan Degen, Opportunity Grant Administrator
Cheryl Connolly, Operations Assistant
Jennifer Diallo, ODA Program Evaluator
Alan Contreras, ODA Administrator

GUESTS
Belle Cantor, Oregon Community Foundation
Emily McLain, OR Student Association
Jeff Scott, LCB, Portland
Eric Stromquist, Oregon Culinary PPC
Don Moutos, Pioneer Pacific College
Tim Nesbitt, Governors Office
Unoda Moyo, DAS HRSD
Gary Andeen, OR Independent Colleges Association
Trisha Tate, Ford Family Foundation
Wayne Matulich, ITT Technical Inst.
Gena Wikstrom, NW Career Colleges Federation
Mark Johnson, Pioneer Pacific College
Steve Ericson, Heald College, Portland
Jon Alberts, LCB Portland
Sandra Wiggins, PPC

CALL TO ORDER
Commission Chair, Bart Howard called the meeting to order at 9:00 am. Having a quorum, the meeting proceeded. Commissioner Lemos was unable to attend.

Commission Chair, Bart Howard called the public meeting into recess at 9:05. The Commissioners removed themselves to proceed with the Executive session.

EXECUTIVE SESSION
The executive session pursuant to ORS 192.660 (2)(a) To consider the employment of a public officer, employee, staff member or individual agent was held simultaneously to the ODA Administrative Rule Hearing.

ODA ADMINISTRATIVE RULE HEARING
583-030-XXXX
OAR 583-030
583-050-XXXX
OAR 575-050

Alan Contreras, ODA Administrator, opened the public hearing at 9:07am. Mr. Contreras stated that the Feds issued a 165 text page of their notice of proposed rulemaking on gainful employment. Mr. Contreras offered a copy of the text via flash drive. Four individuals signed up to testify on the rule change 583-030.

583-030-0035 Standards Revision
583-030-0011 Statutory Change

Gena Wikstrom, NW Career College Federation, testified that the Federation prefers the language adopted by the California Legislature which states "Graduated employed in the field" means the graduates who are gainfully employed within six months of graduation in a position for which the skills obtained through the education and training provided by the institution are required or provided a significant advantage to the graduates obtaining the position." The language provides a reasonable requirement for initial employment in a field related to the program of study.

Jeff Scott, Le Cordon Blue College of Culinary Arts in Portland, stated that his concern is ambiguities that then create invitations for mischief, compliance mischief, litigation mischief or otherwise. Mr. Scott agrees with the goals of Mr. Contreras. Mr. Scott proposed using the following language: "Graduates employed in the field" means graduates who are gainfully employed within one year of graduation in a position for which the skills obtained through the education and training provided by the institution are required or are utilized to perform the purpose or objective of the position or the major responsibilities of the position. To the extent schools disclose the employment statistics only address the initial jobs obtained with one year of completion of the students' program(s), they should disclose within those employment statistics the following information: that the reported employment statistics reflect only the initial jobs obtained within one year of completion; and, unless a school can demonstrate otherwise, most of the jobs counted as employment in the field are entry level jobs in the field.

Eric Stromquist, Oregon Culinary Institute Pioneer Pacific College, testified that they understand the proposed language is an effort to clarify the standard, and may be deliberately broad to try and accommodate various levels of academic credentials and different kinds of programs in the ODA rules. He also understands and agrees with the critical importance of presenting valid placement information, especially as it relates to recruiting new students. The concern is that the proposed revisions will be very difficult to define, and even more so to comply with.

Wayne Matulich, ITT Technical Inst., stated that he had 35 years experience in industry before beginning his academic career. As an employer looking for a new employee there are two items to look at, who to invite to the table for an interview and who to hire. The skills acquired thru education must be present. Today in technology the skill gets you through the door, but most of the jobs are becoming customer based; they are looking for collaborative skills, communication skills and customer facing skills. These skills are not taught in the certificate programs. These skills that come with a degree are needed in today's job placement. Mr. Matulich also agreed with the testimony of the Federation.

583-050-0011 & 0016 Honorary Degrees
No public testimony was given.

Mr. Contreras closed the Public Administrative Rule hearing at 10:10 am.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR DECISION

Chair Howard, called the public meeting to order at 12:30pm.
The Commission set aside the decision to select an Executive Director. The Selection Committee will be pursuing this further.

CHAIR'S/OTHER COMMISSIONER'S REPORT

No report was presented.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Mike Marsh, Interim Executive Director, stated that the OUS agreement to pay their share of the E-Board special appropriation and the Governors reduction allotment is being implemented.

Legislative concepts will focus on ODA to give Mr. Marsh the direction to move ahead and the options involved.

During the June 23, 2010, meeting the Commissioners chose to take liaison roles within several OSAC departments. Mr. Marsh suggested that the newer Commissioners could begin training for this role with a "new commissioner orientation" session. Mr. Marsh will send the materials to interested Commissioners.

ODA ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Jennifer Diallo has been hired as an ODA Program Evaluator.

Administrative Rule Results

Mr. Contreras conducted the Administrative Rule hearing this morning. The testimony surrounded the concern of what is the description of "placement in a job", and how the schools and ODA should track this placement. A re-draft will be distributed to the schools in late August. A proposal will be presented to the Commission at the September meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment was given.

GOVERNOR'S RESET CABINET DISCUSSION

Tim Nesbitt, Governors Chief of Staff, stated that the fiscal challenges for this biennium and beyond are serious. In the past Oregon has realized a 6.5 - 7 percent revenue gain year after year. During the current recession Oregon has lost the equivalent of three years worth of revenue growth. The predication is that Oregon is coming out of the recession, although the economic indicators have been troubling. The current revenue gains will not match previous gains. As these gains begin to grow, so do costs, PERS reserves must be replenished, and more people need safety net services. This problem will not be solved in the next two years, but possibly in the next four years. The recommendations in the cabinet reset document in relation to post secondary education calls for building on the Shared Responsibility Model (RSM) for need based aid to better manage affordability by connecting all the pieces that effect student cost. The concept is to incorporate institutional need based financial aid into the SRM. Reforming the Oregon Opportunity Grant (OOG), to prevent over commitment and managing to budget is the second piece. The projected shortfall for the next biennium is $2.7 billion dollars.

LEGISLATIVE CONCEPTS

The Commission voted to move ahead with the OOG legislative concept at the July 8, meeting. The Commission dropped the ODA legislative concept at the April 23, Commission meeting. The third concept is still pending. Mr. Marsh would like to use the third concept to work with the Department of Justice on a concept to move forward with two options. The first option would be to reorganizing ODA, the Executive Director would be the direct report for the ODA program in the second option. Gary Andeen, OR Independent Colleges Association, suggested speaking with the stakeholders about the proposal and contact David Young, a former ODA Administrator to determine why the Commission was originally selected as the ODA direct report. Mr. Contreras will contact Teresa Green, Oregon Department of Education, to let her know this issue is still on the table.

CONSENT CALENDAR POLICY

Commissioner Burns moved to approve the Consent Calendar Policy, Commissioner Sharples seconded the motion. The motion passed by majority vote.

EMERGENCY BOARD REQUEST

Oregon Opportunity Grant

Susan Degen, Opportunity Grant Administrator, will be receiving the community college pre-enrollment forecast report September 1, 2010. The program will use this information as part of the forecasting process. The Commission will go before the E-Board to request funds for the OOG program September 22, 2010. Mr. Marsh suggested requesting $2.65 million instead of the full $5 million. The legislative intent was to set aside $5 million for the program, we have gotten help from OUS which leaves the balance at $2.65 million, by not asking for the full appropriation the Commission will establish more credibility.

Scholarship & Access Grants

Vicki Merkel, Scholarship and Access Program Director, is very successful in writing grants, but the authority must be given by the Legislature to spend the grant funds. The E-Board will be presented with a request to have other fund expenditure limitation, in order to spend these funds. The Commission gave their verbal ok to move forward.

CONSENT CALENDAR

Commissioner Burns made the motion to approve meeting minutes #399 June 25, 2010 and meeting minutes #400 July 8, 2010. Commissioner Sharples seconded the motion to approve meeting minutes #399 and # 400. The motion passed by majority vote.

OTHER BUISNESS AND ADJOURNMENT

There being no other business, Commissioner Burns moved to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Sharples seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 1:24 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Bart Howard

Bart Howard, Chair