

**MEETING #416**  
**OREGON STUDENT ASSISTANCE COMMISSION**  
**Friday, February 24, 2011**  
**Oregon Student Access Commission**  
**Columbia Room**  
**Eugene, OR**

**COMMISSIONERS**

Bart Howard  
Mike Holland  
Gary Weeks (phone)  
Glenda Melton  
Mario Parker-Milligan  
Lucero Castaneda

**STAFF**

Josette Green – Executive Director  
Vic Nunenkamp – Director of Scholarship and Access  
Jennifer Diallo – Office of Degree Authorization Director  
Lacie Morgan – Executive Assistant

**GUESTS**

Brent Wilder – OAICU  
Mary Robinson – Oregon University System  
Brett Rowlett – Lane Community College  
Philip Shilts – Oregon Student Association  
Stephanie Carnahan – Oregon University System

**CALL TO ORDER**

Commission Chair Bart Howard called the meeting to order at 9:33 am. Having a quorum present, the meeting proceeded.

**CHAIR'S/OTHER COMMISSIONER'S REPORT**

Chair Howard reported that he attended the Oregon Opportunity Grant advisory group meeting at Chemeketa Community College in January. Commissioner Mario Parker- Milligan reported that he attended the Oregon Student Association lobby day in Salem with over 70 students participating. Commissioner Parker-Milligan reported that he testified at the Oregon Community College Student Association town hall they hosted with various legislators on behalf of the Oregon Opportunity Grant asking for more funding.

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Josette Green, Executive Director reported that Oregon is in the midst of a short legislative session to close by the end of February. Ms. Green shared a one page summary/handout that summarizes OSAC's programs in the 2009-2011 biennium that is presented to legislators during legislative visit.

**Legislative Update**

Ms. Green reported that there are 3 bills in this legislative session that impact OSAC and that OSAC is monitoring closely. Included in the meeting packet is a report of all the bills that OSAC is monitoring with current status as of last yesterday afternoon.

The following is a summary of the three bills that are most important to OSAC:

1. Senate Bill 1538: This senate bill was created by Senator Mark Hass to refine and clarify Higher Education Coordinating Commission (HECC) duties. The bill mentions OSAC and aligns us with other education entities in the state as shown in the Highlights of Legislation handout available in the meeting packet. The second portion of this bill impacts the Office of Degree Authorization which is slated to transfer to the HECC on July 1, 2012. This bill transfers the

career school reviews from Oregon Department of Education to HECC with a legislative intent is for the career school reviews to report to the leadership of ODA.

2. House Bill 4056: This house bill establishes a taskforce on STEM Access and Success for the purpose of encouraging students to study science, technology, engineering and mathematics. This bill also creates a scholarship that once funded OSAC will administer.
3. Senate Bill 1581: This senate bill is one of the Governor's bills related to education and it impacts OSAC in two ways:
  - a. Indicates that the Executive Director of OSAC will report to the Chief Education Officer along with the all the executive officers of the education entities.
  - b. Discusses the creation achievement compacts and OSAC is not required to have an achievement compact.

Ms. Green reported an update to SB 3471, which was from the last legislative session and provided foster youth with priority Oregon Opportunity Grant funding. OSAC has been the driving force for the implementation of this bill and all systems are in place for OSAC to move forward with this legislative requirement.

### **Oregon Opportunity Grant Update**

Ms. Green reported that on Friday February 17, Oregon Opportunity Grant awards were released to schools and students. This is the earliest that OSAC has made these awards. The early awarding is important for our students in order to make critical future educational decisions and to retain our students within the state of Oregon. Email notifications of the OOG award went out to students on Tuesday February 21 and Wednesday February 22 along with a notification of the scholarship application deadline. As a result of this email OSAC experienced the highest volume of new applications with over 1000 applications being created on Feb. 22.

Ms. Green reported that there is approximately \$2 million dollars of OOG that is under consideration for use in the budget reduction. The Governor and the legislature came to agreement last evening on the \$28 million reduction and we should hear today on the fate of the \$2 million of OOG. OSAC has been very conservative in awarding the OOG for 12-13 given that we don't know the effect of notifying students of their award, the projection model is new and we have a fixed award amount which may impact the use of dollars. It is likely there will be a round of second awards in December after the fall disbursement reports are in.

Ms. Green reported that the Office of Degree Authorization is moving to HECC as planned on July 1, 2012. No action has been taken on creating the HECC and it is still in concept. Preliminary conversations have centered on how it will happen and the possibility of an interagency agreement with HECC and OSAC for OSAC to continue to provide services to ODA. Also the movement of the career school reviews over from ODE will not take place until July 1, 2013 but the budget process for 2013-2015 will begin in March. It will be important for ODA and ODE to work together on this process.

### **Other Updates**

Ms. Green reported that the ASPIRE expansion vision is moving forward with the Oregon Education Investment Board as a strategy outlined in their report to the legislature on December 15. This strategy continues to be discussed with legislators and the response is positive. Representative Sherry Sprenger is

currently an ASPIRE volunteer. Ms. Green also reported that OSAC's second vision of the Oregon Promise is evolving and continues to grow. OSAC has been asked to present this vision at a task force for student success in March. OSAC is being seen as a leader and the interest in this vision continues to grow. Ms. Green reported that she will provide a more thorough presentation of this vision at the next commission meeting.

Ms. Green reported the 2013-2015 State Budget process kickoffs on March 20, 2012. Significant dates for OSAC in the budget process are June 1, 2012 and August 31, 2012.

Ms. Green reported that the next commission meeting includes a public hearing for rulemaking for two separate rules. The two are: one from ODA to encompass proficiency education for schools that are reviewed by ODA and one rule for the Oregon Opportunity Grant that defines satisfactory academic progress.

Ms. Green announced that on March 1 OSAC will unveil its first bi-monthly newsletter. Communication is important to our stakeholders, commissioners and customers. Chair Howard requested an advance copy of the newsletter to allow the commissioners to preview. Ms. Green confirmed that OSAC will send the commissioner's an advanced copy of the newsletter the day before.

Ms. Green reported an area of concern for OSAC is the database which is unpredictable and fragile in its current state. DAS Enterprise Security is performing tests and reviewing the current structure of the database and highlight the vulnerabilities. The database was a combination of multiple different databases and does not have its own architecture.

Ms. Green reported that the Governor placed budget restrictions and a hiring freeze on all state agencies on December 14. The state formed an exception committee for the hiring process and OSAC has had every hiring exception request approved. It is important that these positions were allowed to be filled because of the contracts that we enter into with grantor in order to meet our obligations. OSAC has since hired a new ODA employee, Cheryl Mathews for ASPIRE, and two temporary employees during the hiring freeze since our hiring exception requests have been approved.

### **SCHOLARSHIP AND ACCESS PROGRAMS**

Vic Nunenkamp, Director of Scholarship and Access Programs, reported that things are moving along on the new OSAC scholarship application. The application is currently on schedule with the development and the actual design has been completed.

Ms. Nunenkamp reported that the number of scholarship applications created this year have increased versus last year statistics. As of Wednesday, February 22, 7440 more applications were created this year than in the past year, 992 more completed applications this year and 3030 more applications have been reviewed than in 2011. OSAC has brought in a team of work-study students from the University of Oregon who have been thoroughly trained on the application review process which has allowed OSAC to be caught up with the review of scholarship applications to date. Chair Howard requested a written report detailing the differences between scholarship applications from 2011 to 2012 which include total numbers and percentages.

Ms. Nunenkamp reported that there are six new scholarship funds and the Oregon Spirit Scholarship that we discussed at the prior Commission meeting is on hold until the Governor's 40-40-20 "Oregon

Learns” initiative has been more clearly defined. It is our full intention to be supportive and work in concert with the Governor’s office on any scholarship initiatives presented.

Currently the ASPIRE Program has \$232,416 committed through August 2012. We will still need about \$360,000 to get us through the 2011 – 2013 biennium. These essential dollars will be used to initiate and set up for success the “ASPIRE Dream” –that of having ASPIRE Programs established in over 600 high schools throughout Oregon in the next five years. The ASPIRE Team has identified its strategy to seek and achieve the needed dollars. Chair Howard asked who currently supports the ASPIRE Program. Ms. Nunenkamp reported that the ASPIRE currently receives from: the GEAR UP Fund, Department of Human Services (DHS), The Ford Family Foundation, The Oregon Community Foundation, Incight and the AHEC (Area Health Education Center). The General Fund supports one full-time position.

### **ODA DIRECTOR’S REPORT**

Jennifer Diallo, Office of Degree Authorization Director reported that Helen Dunford had been hired as ODA Program Evaluator and will begin March 5. Ms. Dunford will working remotely from her home in the northern Willamette Valley to support ODA oversight of colleges in the Portland area and will be focusing on program reviews. Ms. Dunford also speaks four languages which will be useful to ODA in our degree mill and degree validation work.

Ms. Diallo reported that there has been a repeal in the U.S. House of Representatives of the new federal regulations for online programs but most of the issues impacting students would still remain an issue. More than 500 applications from out-of-state colleges and universities offering online programs have been received to-date and a majority of these programs *state* that are purely online programs but ODA has found out that most of these programs have a clinic placement, student teaching practicum, or student internship that requires students to supervised by a person that is not a staff member of the University. ODA has been working hard to raise awareness of this issue with licensing boards, and regional and national organizations, as most of the focus has been on what is good for schools and very little effort has been made to protect students who are sent by online schools to arrange for experiences with little or no supervision that are part of the academic program and for which students earn credit. ODA is responsive to what is happening at the federal level but the change in federal regulations has little impact in Oregon because our laws already require schools to have ODA approval before enrolling students. Ms. Diallo reported that if the federal regulations are repealed in the Senate and the repeal is not vetoed by the President, ODA’s future role may have to include providing information to students about what to look for in an online college or university in order to help students become wiser consumers. There are currently schools offering degrees online to students in Oregon that are not valid degrees in Oregon, and many more offering degrees online that do not necessarily prepare students for working in that field after graduation when the field requires professional licensure. Some licensing boards are changing regulations to not allow certain type of school or online education which can affect students who think they are taking a course that they can use to get professional licensure. National recruiter and campus staff in the home state are often unaware of what is required for a nursing, teaching, or psychologist license in Oregon. Ms. Diallo reported the majority of her time in recent months is devoted to communication with schools applying for approval of online programs, and resolving issues for students and licensing boards related to online programs.

Brett Rowlett, Lane Community College, commented that on a recent trip to Washington DC he met with Senator Merkley. One of Senator Merkley’s priorities is to restrict Title IV student financial aid for students attending unaccredited schools or programs. Mr. Rowlett commented that Senator Merkley is

also exploring prohibiting students from being eligible for funds if there is an accredited program available in the state which would help minimize the allure of these unaccredited programs.

Ms. Diallo reported that one of the biggest issues facing ODA is that the ODA database was built on the same platform as the OSAC database and has some limitations because it was not built to support that work that ODA performs. A new schematic has been developed for the ODA database. One of the advantages of a new database will create efficiency for ODA and allow for the transparency and constructive use of the data. ODA hopes to move forward on this development very soon.

### **LEGISLATIVE CONCEPTS FOR 2013-2015**

Josette Green reported that legislative concepts are due May 1 for any bills that OSAC may want to move forward for the 2013-15 biennium. This item is on the agenda in order to begin the process of thinking about these concepts. Ms. Green asked the commission if they have any thoughts or concepts for 2013-2015. Commissioner Holland stated he would like OSAC to consider a budget bill for ASPIRE. Ms. Green reported that there are two policy packages that OSAC would like to consider and one is the funding for ASPIRE. The second policy package for OSAC is any IT needs relating to database software or programming which still requires some research to better understand our vulnerabilities and costs of those solutions. Chair Howard reported that the Shared Responsibility Model should be discussed as a potential legislative concept and these discussions may need to begin with the Oregon Opportunity Grant advisory group.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Phillip Schilts from Oregon Student Association reported on the lobbying efforts of OSA. This past Tuesday was a specific OSA lobby day with a many students present. At lobby day, OSA had approximately 60 visits with members of the senate and house. OSA collected approximately 200 stories of how students are impacted regarding affordability. A number of those stories focus on the Oregon Opportunity Grant. OSA has been lobbying for funding for OUS and community colleges along with Oregon Opportunity Grant funding. Josette Green requested that OSA share some of those stories with OSAC and Phillip agreed to do so.

### **CONSENT CALENDAR**

Commissioner Melton moved to approve consent calendar which included meeting minutes from December 2, 2011 Commission Meeting #415. Commissioner Holland seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. Commissioner Weeks was not present for the vote.

### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

The Executive Session pursuant to ORS 192.660 (2)(i) was held.

### **OTHER BUSINESS AND ADJOURNMENT**

Chair Howard called for other business to come before the commission at this time. There being no further business, Commissioner Holland moved to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Parker-Milligan seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously and the meeting was adjourned at 11:57 am.

Respectfully submitted,

*Approved by Commission on March 30, 2012 at meeting # 417*

*Bart Howard, Chair*

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