

MEETING #417
OREGON STUDENT ASSISTANCE COMMISSION
Friday, March 30, 2012
Oregon Student Access Commission
Columbia Room
Eugene, OR

COMMISSIONERS

Mike Holland
Glenda Melton
Bart Howard
Mario Parker-Milligan
Gary Weeks (Phone)
Lucero Castañeda (Phone)

STAFF

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

GUESTS

Larry Large – OAICU
Mary Robinson – Oregon University System
Emma Kallaway – Oregon Student Association
Brett Rowlett – Lane Community College (Phone)

CALL TO ORDER

Commission Chair Bart Howard called the meeting to order at 9:32 am. Having a quorum present, the meeting proceeded.

CHAIR'S/OTHER COMMISSIONER'S REPORT

Commissioner Parker-Milligan reported that approximately 70 Oregon students and 300 students nationwide attended the national lobby day and legislative conference in Washington DC.

ADMINISTRATIVE RULES HEARING

OAR 583-030-0035 (5) (b)

OAR 575-031-0030

Chair Howard opened the administrative rules hearing at 9:40am.

Jennifer Diallo, Office of Degree Authorization stated the amendment to OAR 583-030-0035 (5) (b) will expand the options for awarding credit and allow ODA to approve degree programs having significant experiential components, innovative educational methodologies and technology-enhanced delivery models. This rule will also allow ODA the ability to establish parameters for the evaluation of credit for prior learning and proficiency gained through military training, professional experience, and other learning opportunities that may occur outside the traditional academic setting. With the current rule only 25% of a program is allowed to have alternative teaching methods other than a teacher teaching students in a classroom. The other extension is to allow this beyond the undergraduate level.

Josette Green, Executive Director of Oregon Student Access Commission stated that the amendment to OAR 575-031-0030 relates to the Oregon Opportunity Grant and the definition of qualified student. The purpose of this rule is to align the OAR with ORS 348.180 which defines a qualified student under item

3(c) is making satisfactory academic progress as defined by the rule of the commission. There is currently no definition in OSAC rules. The purpose of this amendment is to define satisfactory of academic process under the conditions of the award. This amendment is in alignment with the recommendation of the OOG advisory group and it also aligns OSAC with Title IV regulations.

No public testimony was given for either rule proposal.

Chair Howard closed the public rules hearing at 9:50am.

ADMINISTRATIVE RULES DISCUSSION AND DECISION

OAR 575-031-0030

Commissioner Parker-Milligan asked where OAR 575-031-0030 was derived from. Ms. Green reported that OSAC purposed this rule so that we are in compliance with our current statutes. OSAC is currently operating as if the rule was already in place. It has always been defined by federal regulation that satisfactory academic progress is defined by the institution in accordance with federal regulation.

OAR 583-030-0035 (5) (b)

Commissioner Holland commented that if we are to move towards a more permissive system there needs to be some precise expectations about what is allowable as proficiency based learning. Ms. Diallo stated that this is not available to school who do not have the appropriate accreditation. This rule is to align with accreditation standards. There are currently regionally accredited schools that are already utilizing the proficiency based system. Chair Howard asked if ODA looks at the accreditation. Ms. Diallo responded yes but we don't necessarily accept every approved USDOE accreditor because under Oregon current standards we can only accept regional accreditation.

Chair Howard called for a motion to approve rule changes to rule OAR 575-031-0030 and OAR 583-0030-0035 (5)(b). Commissioner Holland moved to approve both rules. Commissioner Parker-Milligan seconded the motion. The motion passed by unanimous vote. Commissioner Castañeda was not present for the vote.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Josette Green, Executive Director reported that the outcome of the February 2012 legislative session on OSAC is:

- **The STEM scholarship was passed but currently is not funded.**
- **Another bill confirmed that the OSAC Executive Director will report to the Chief Education Officer.**
- **The \$2 million dollars was retained for the Oregon Opportunity Grant; however OSAC now has a \$30,000 cut in general fund for personnel.**

The Governor was able to pass his two education bills on the Early Learning Council and Achievement Compacts.

Oregon Opportunity Grant Update

Ms. Green reported that the \$2 million was awarded the week after we were made aware of the money being retained. The first download of information for awarding priority Oregon Opportunity Grant to foster youth has been received and eighty students were awarded the grant. The schools will be notified on Monday and students next Tuesday. Ms. Green reported that the majority of the students that had filed a FAFSA had already received an Opportunity Grant in our initial round of awards.

Ms. Green reported that one of the agency's initiatives have been to create standardized charts and statistics that can be updated yearly and posted on our website for transparency purposes. There is a need to provide consistent information to our stakeholders and these charts provide that information. These charts will be available for all program areas. Ms. Green reviewed the two graphs relating to the Oregon Opportunity Grant that were available in the commission meeting packet. Chair Howard asked for preliminary information and numbers for the Oregon Opportunity Grant awards for the 2012-2013 year. Ms. Green responded that she will provide the commissioners the preliminary numbers and that the charts will not be updated until the information is solid and confirmed.

Oregon Education Investment Board Update

Ms. Green reported that the Oregon Education Investment Board had a historic meeting this week in that the Achievement compacts passed for all institutions across the state and will be distributed in April. The schools will have to report in for the first time in July 2012.

Ms. Green reported that the recruitment for the Chief Education Office is moving right along. They have spoken with over 500 people and they currently have 54 active candidates and will begin the interview process. They are on target to hire by the end of April. Included in the meeting packet is a list of projects and goals that will be asked of the new Chief Education Officer. OSAC fits into both the project 1 and project 2 for the Chief Education Officer.

Task Force for Student and Institutional Success

Ms. Green reported that there is a task force for student and institutional success that was created in the 2011 legislative session by HB 3418. The task force is working to define the barriers for students attaining their success. The number one barrier the group has identified is affordability and cost. Ms. Green presented to the task force on March 14 which include public and private sector individuals with various levels of knowledge of financial aid. The presentation was centered on the Oregon Opportunity Grant and the Shared Responsibility Model. The task force had many questions and will follow up with Ms. Green with more questions.

Ms. Green reported that the 2013-2015 budget process had a kick off presentation on March 20 and the first of the deadlines for action being today. Ms. Green reviewed the handout entitled "OSAC Goals and Budget Requirements" which is an internal document to help guide us and move forward in our budget process. Chair Howard asked if the agency has assigned any dollar amounts to these goals. Ms. Green responded that we are at the beginning of the process to assign dollar amounts to these goals and these numbers are due June 1st.

Ms. Green reported that all positions in the agency are currently filled except for one. The Director of Administrative Services position is currently posted and closes on April 15. The first interviews will on April 20, 24, and/or 25 with May 7 as an anticipated hiring date. Ms. Green asked for commissioners to participate in the interview process. Commissioner Melton and Commissioner Holland responded that they will participate. Commissioner Melton is unavailable for interviews on April 20. The Commissioners requested a copy of the position description for the Director of Administrative Services.

SCHOLARSHIP AND ACCESS PROGRAMS

Vic Nunenkamp, Director of Scholarship and Access Programs, presented the chart "Scholarship Applications Started, Completed and Awarded" that was available in the meeting packet. Ms. Nunenkamp reported that the data provided in 2005-2006 was the academic year that the computer

conversion took place to a web based product and that all applications required “wet” signatures which those who started were more likely to complete their applications.

Commissioner Parker-Milligan suggested that OSAC send emails to encourage people who start the OSAC application to finish the application. Emails and reminders may encourage more folks to finish their application and increase the application completion rates.

Ms. Nunenkamp reported that an email was sent the week prior to the deadline to the Oregon Opportunity Grant recipients telling them about the scholarship application. We believe this is responsible for the increase in applications started but that people may have not had enough time to complete them. Ms. Nunenkamp reported that we had an IT system crash at 10pm before the March 1st deadline which caused OSAC to extend the deadlines twice to give students the opportunity to complete the application.

Ms. Nunenkamp presented the remaining two charts that were included in the meeting packet. The new scholarship application is progressing and it is ahead of deadline. There have also been new scholarships brought in but will announce those when the paperwork is complete. Ms. Nunenkamp has reported that the scholarship review committees have all started and we are in the process of meeting all of our deadlines with everyone including The Ford Family Foundation. Ms. Nunenkamp reported that she is participating on a review committee so that she can fully understand its process. ASPIRE is in process of determining how to fund the remainder of this biennium and are currently working on grants for that funding. Commission Weeks asked for a management plan if the funding from grants doesn't come through which includes the steps that ASPIRE will take. Ms. Nunenkamp responded that she will work on the management plan and will have it in two months.

ODA ADMINISTRATORS REPORT

Jennifer Diallo, ODA Director reported that ODA is operating with a staffing deficit while the workload continues to increase. Last year, ODA had requested additional limited duration staff to help with incoming online approvals but were not permitted to hire. As solution a temporary employee was hired. ODA ended the last biennium with \$98,000 in excess fee revenue which under statute can be used for ODA work. It has been difficult to operate this past year without having sufficient staff or contracting available. The level of other services has been very difficult to maintain due to budget cuts. It has come to a point where ODA is unsure if they can provide the services that is required of them under statute. ODA would like to ask for one additional staff and a functional database during this budget cycle. Ms. Diallo said that she would supply the commission with a written report to follow up the meeting.

LEGISLATIVE CONCEPTS FOR 2013-2015

Ms. Green reported that this is on the agenda to plant the seed for any discussion or ideas for the commissioners to bring forward in regards to legislative concepts. The OOG advisory group committee will meet April 19 and this will be a topic on the agenda. The legislative concepts are due May 1st. Legislative Concepts that are concepts that form into bills on behalf of this agency.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S PERFORMANCE CRITERIA

Chair Howard presented the Executive Director's Performance Evaluation that available in the meeting packet. This includes a form for commissioners, internal staff and external stakeholders. Chair Howard called for a motion to approve this form and the performance criteria for the Executive Director position.

Commissioner Holland asked if there would be a self-evaluation portion that would include a narrative statement. Commissioner Holland asked if he would see the results internal/external surveys before the commission evaluates. Chair Howard said that seeing the survey results is the typical process. Commissioner Weeks asked for a timeframe on the return of the results from the internal/external surveys. Lacie Morgan, Executive Assistant responded and said that the results could be back to the commission by April 16. Commission Holland moved to approve the Executive Director's performance criteria. Commissioner Melton seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. Commissioner Castañeda was not present for the vote.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment.

CONSENT CALENDAR

Commissioner Parker-Milligan requested the minutes be changed to reflect the correct spelling of Philip Shilts. Commissioner Holland moved to approve consent calendar with the changes reflected by Commissioner Parker-Milligan's request which included meeting minutes from February 24, 2012 Commission Meeting #416. Commissioner Parker-Milligan seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. Commissioner Castañeda was not present for the vote.

OTHER BUSINESS AND ADJOURNMENT

Chair Howard called for other business to come before the commission at this time. There being no further business, Commissioner Mario Parker-Milligan moved to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Holland seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. Commissioner Castañeda was not present for the vote. The meeting was adjourned at 11:23 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Approved by the Commission on April 27, 2012 at Meeting 418

Bart Howard, Chair
