

**MEETING #418**  
**OREGON STUDENT ACCESS COMMISSION**  
**Friday, April 27, 2012**  
**Oregon Student Access Commission**  
**Columbia Room**  
**Eugene, OR**

**COMMISSIONERS**

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

**STAFF**

Josette Green, Executive Director  
Vic Nunenkamp, Director of Scholarships and Access  
Jennifer Diallo, Director of Office of Degree Authorization  
Lacie Morgan, Executive Assistant  
Susan Degen, Oregon Opportunity Grant Administrator

**GUESTS**

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

**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/COMMISSIONER'S REPORT**

Chair Howard reported that since the last commission meeting he has been working on the performance evaluation for the Executive Director and he attended the Oregon Opportunity Grant advisory group meeting in Salem.

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Josette Green, Executive Director presented the handout entitled Best Practices Criteria that was included in the meeting packet. This list and a copy of the survey were included in the meeting packet to provide the commissioners a preview of what they will be asked to complete at the June 29<sup>th</sup> commission meeting.

Ms. Green presented the handout entitled Oregon Opportunity Grant – Awarded and Distributed that was included in the meeting packet. This handout was sent to the commissioners last week. Chair Howard asked about the disbursed amount for the 2011-2012 academic year. Ms. Green reported that the 2011-2012 disbursed amounts do not include spring term disbursements to students. It is estimated that 2011-2012 total disbursed amounts will be approximately \$43 to \$44 million which is projected from historical data. One recent trend that has been noticed is that students are retaining the Oregon Opportunity Grant at a higher percent than historically. Commissioner Weeks requested that an additional line be added to the chart that included appropriated amount so that he can compare the budget numbers to the actual numbers. The appropriated amount for 2011-2012 was \$46 million dollars and for 2012-2013 it is \$54 million dollars.

Ms. Green presented the financial statement dated July 1, 2011-March 31, 2012 that was included in the meeting packet. This financial statement represents 38% of the current biennium. The financial statement shows that in all areas OSAC is on target and has not underspent or overspent. Chair Howard asked if there are any large expenditures moving forward? Ms. Green reported that there should be nothing out of the ordinary. OSAC is currently reviewing vendors for a Financial Aid Management System for our programs and are waiting for cost estimates. Commissioner Holland and Commissioner Weeks suggested preparing a financial statement will all fund types combined and not separated.

Ms. Green reported that the next issue of the OSAC bi-monthly newsletter will be delivered on Tuesday May 1. Ms. Green reported that the agency is in full swing with the budget process. Ms. Green reported at the end of the February legislative session the Governor and the legislature came to agreement to cut \$28 million from the state budget. Originally it was thought that \$2 million of the Oregon Opportunity Grant was going to be used but it was not used. The Governor and the legislatures came to agreement to cut employee costs directly related to public relations, outreach, and marketing. OSAC was given around \$30,000 to cut from our budget even though OSAC has no general funded positions directly relating to these areas. Monica Brown, OSAC's Legislative Fiscal Officer (LFO), will attend the E-board in May to present cuts to be made. Ms. Green reported that as of June 1, 2012, OSAC will have a new LFO, Doug Wilson.

### **SCHOLARSHIP AND ACCESS PROGRAMS**

Vic Nunenkamp, Director of Scholarship and Access Programs, reported that the scholarship staff is currently busy completing queries in order to meet the deadlines for sending out packets to the selection committees. Of the 472 queries required to pick the eligible students for each scholarship fund, 208 queries have been completed. The deadline to have all queries completed is June 29. Ms. Nunenkamp reported that the scholarship application deadline for 2013 has been changed from March 1<sup>st</sup> at midnight to March 1<sup>st</sup> at 5pm.

There are five new scholarship funds that are currently in the pipeline and Joyce Berman, Donor Development Specialist, is working on getting these funds finalized. OSAC now has a Scholarship Donor Facebook Page. Ms. Nunenkamp reported that stories are being collected from donors and scholarship recipients for the online scholarship catalog. Ms. Berman and ASPIRE are working together to encourage scholarship recipients to give back as ASPIRE volunteer mentors in schools.

Ms. Nunenkamp reported that scholarship team is beginning the process of researching how to best evaluate the scholarship program, a task that, to her knowledge, has not been done in the past.

Ms. Nunenkamp reported that ASPIRE is working on an expansion plan to be completed June 1<sup>st</sup>. The contract for the ASPIRE evaluator is about to be awarded; the cost of this is covered in a grant from OCF. Ms. Nunenkamp reported that ASPIRE is working on writing grants in order to fund the program for the next year.

Ms. Nunenkamp reported that the new scholarship application is making progress. Ms. Nunenkamp quoted Brandon Fox by saying "major components of the profile section [of the scholarship application] are now complete" and "it is pulling dynamically from the database".

Chair Howard asked if the administrative fees collected from the scholarships are adequate to keep staff functional. Ms. Nunenkamp reported that it is adequate but barely. Ms. Nunenkamp reported that

everyone is functioning at 100% and that everyone is at full capacity. The Commissioners relayed to Ms. Nunenkamp that the commissioners really appreciate the work the scholarship team does. Chair Howard also reported that in his travels to Salem he has met with people whose “faces light up” when they discuss ASPIRE.

### **ODA DIRECTOR’S REPORT**

Jennifer Diallo, Director of Office of Degree Authorization reported that she returned from meeting with post-secondary degree authorization agency staff from all over the country. This year’s meeting also included was attended by representatives from accreditors, US Department of Education and even from some non-profit colleges, which is a bit unusual. The conference showed ODA that they are ahead of the game when it comes to the new federal regulations that were put in place last year. ODA received a lot of positive feedback about their processes and having a “low barrier” to schools offering online programs in Oregon. Ms. Diallo reported that there was a presentation on the interstate reciprocity agreement and state authorization agents found out that the team has not come as far states would like to see the agreement go. The agreement they were able to forge relies on accreditors to resolve issues at their accredited campuses; however the regional accreditors have already voiced their reluctance to assume this role. If accreditors are unwilling to enforce their accreditation standards, then states that accept reciprocity give up the fees and authority that allow agencies like ODA to provide oversight and have no guarantee that accredited schools will be overseen by their accrediting organizations.

Ms. Diallo reported that the interstate reciprocity team stated during an informal dinner that if every state had a process like Oregon there would be no need for an interstate reciprocity agreement. At the introduction to the conference, the Senior Policy Advisory to the Under Secretary of Education Rosemarie Nassif mentioned Oregon’s 40/40/20 plan in her opening remarks at the conference. Ms. Diallo reported that she was invited to Senator Merkley’s office to discuss with his policy advisor and comment on legislation to be proposed in the in regards to programmatic accreditation and federal requirements for financial aid.

### **LEGISLATIVE CONCEPTS FOR 2013-2015/ KEY PERFORMANCE MEASURES**

Ms. Green reported that legislative concepts are due next Tuesday May 1. There are currently two legislative concepts to bring forward – one for OSAC and one for ODA. Ms. Green reported that the first legislative concept for OSAC is Foster Youth Eligibility Alignment. The primary purpose for this legislative concept is to align the definition of former foster youth for the Chafee grant with the definition of former foster youth for the priority Oregon opportunity grant. The change in the definition will allow students to be eligible for both the Chafee childcare grant and priority opportunity grant. Aligning these definitions will add approximately 80 eligible students for the priority opportunity grant and tuition waiver program. Commissioner Holland expressed concerned that if the definition is changed entirely there is a possibility of currently eligible students becoming ineligible. Ms. Green responded that if the definition is changed we will add about 80 students. If we keep the definition as is there is approximately 1-2 students that are not eligible. Commissioner Melton asked why are their age limits on the eligibility for the Chafee Grant and priority Oregon Opportunity Grant? The definition for Chafee is a federal definition. Chair Howard asked if it were possible to use an either/or type of definition as suggested by Commissioner Holland instead of one or the other. Susan Degen, Oregon Opportunity Grant administrator commented that this Legislative Concept is marked as a placeholder which allows time to define this concept. The paperwork is to be submitted by May 1 but we are allowed more time to do research and have conversations in regards to this legislative concept. Commissioner Holland would like us to determine if we are excluding more students by changing this definition.

Ms. Diallo reported that the legislative concept for the Office of Degree Authorization is for a change in the fee structure. This legislative concept is a realignment of fees that makes sense for ODA's workload needs. The structure as it exists currently provides for static fees for each level of degree and in the past few years there has been a huge increase in the number of associate degrees and certificate programs that are related to licensure and therefore have more complicated reviews. These programs also tend to change more frequently and have more frequent turnover in staff which cause the review to take longer and require more frequent review of changes than most bachelor's and master's degree programs. Ms. Diallo reviewed the revised fee structure on page 2 of the legislative concept that was available in the meeting packet. Commissioner Holland moved to accept both legislative concepts to be filed as placeholders. Commissioner Parker-Milligan seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Green reported that OSAC believes in measuring outcomes and measuring the mission of the agency. Key performance measures (KPM) should be a reflection of an appropriate way to measure the mission of the agency. The KPM's should allow our employees and day to day actions to contribute to the outcome and are truly a measure of the agency. Ms. Green presented the revisions to the KPM on the handout entitled Key Performance Measures that was available in the meeting packet. Commissioner Holland asked for an explanation on the first three proposed measures. Ms. Green responded that the definition of college going culture is defined as what percent of those students who received the Oregon Opportunity Grant or take part in ASPIRE are going onto college. Chair Howard asked for a revision of the term college going culture to so that it is more defined.

#### **OREGON OPPORTUNITY GRANT ADVISORY GROUP**

Susan Degen, OOG Administrator reported that for the 2011-2012 academic year estimated disbursement is \$43-\$44 million which is what was projected. Spring disbursement data still needs to be collected which will happen towards the end of May. For 2012-2013 current projections are \$52-\$56 million in disbursements based on total authorized awards of \$102 million. The projections assume a pick rate of around 50%. Ms. Degen reported that students were notified of their awards via email approximately two days after the award lists were posted. Prioritized awards were made to foster youth in March and April and have been notifying schools to continually check their award lists as new students could have been added. Ms. Degen reported that schools are happy with the flat award amount. Ms. Degen also reported that schools are appreciative of the early posting of awards on Feb. 15 2012. The goal for 2013-2014 awards is that awards will be posted at the beginning of March which is contingent on the legislative session in 2013. The Oregon Opportunity Grant Advisory group has begun discussions for 2013-2014 and exploring the possibility of relaxing some of the policies that are currently in place, including the limitation of half-time awards at the beginning of fall term. Currently students who begin fall term at half-time will only receive a half-time award all year whether or not they move to full time in subsequent quarters. The advisory group would like to allow students who start fall quarter at half-time and move to full time in subsequent quarters to see an increase in their OOG amounts.. Ms. Degen reported that she will be collecting data to analyze how much money it would cost to change this policy. Ms. Degen reported that she bring this to the next OOG advisory group meeting. The next meeting is June 14, 2012 at Chemeketa Community College which will include discussions on adjusting the SRM formula, extending deadlines, and increasing award amounts based upon increase of cost of college.

#### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Emma Kallaway of the Oregon Student Association asked if there are scholarships for students who have completed an undergraduate degree but are returning to school for a technical degree or nursing

degree. Ms. Nunenkamp responded that yes there are scholarships and these students need to visit the website and they can find information on these scholarships.

### **CONSENT CALENDAR**

Commissioner Parker-Milligan asked that Brett Rowlett be added to the list of guests for Commission Meeting #417 minutes. Commissioner Melton moved to approve consent calendar which included meeting minutes from March 30, 2012 Commission Meeting #417 with the changes requested by Commissioner Parker-Milligan. Commissioner Parker-Milligan seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

### **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 Parker-Milligan moved to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Holland seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 12:37pm.

Respectfully submitted,

*Approved by the Commission on June 1, 2012 at Meeting 419*

*Bart Howard, Chair*

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