

Inter-Institutional Faculty Senate

IFS Meeting Friday 4 April 2008 at OHSU

These are rough notes taken by IFS Senator Peter Gilkey – they are not normative.

Assessment. B. Dalton Jone (Member State Board). Identify 2-3 people on each campus to be part of an assessment review. Build into the policy option packages – or course release for faculty that participate in this endeavor – possibility of providing continuity and ongoing level of expertise in assessment issue. Your accreditations are going to be about demonstrating value added. This group could potentially be an asset to that process. Positive response from provosts present. Task of IFS and Faculty Senates to choose these people.

Learning Outcomes Bob Turner (OUS). Newly formed task force that just got off the ground. Tight deadline. Producing quickly. Provost Council approved moving forward with this task force – learning outcomes and assessment. A group of people – one from each campus. Elizabeth Zinser has put together a policy package for infrastructure, conference, and a system level person to pull things together. A 10 member team going to a gen ed conference in May 29-June 4. Minnesota State University. Reports back to entire group. AACU is sponsoring that. Annual assessment conference. In each department – moves from faculty upward. Think like a system – this group goes there as an OUS group. Certain criteria that deal with general education. Involves gen ed into upper division. A systematic approach. How are we going to tackle this particular component. This is what we need – if you say we can't raise tuition etc – have to be able to put it out there for them. Interwoven thread rather than common outcomes. Critical theorem in an engineering program will be woven different than in a criminology program. Take input and make people aware of common features. A lot of this was done with respect to general education by Karen Sprague and Bob Mercer previously. Could be a similar process that is directed at academic programs and majors. Commonality across the campus.

Portland initiative. Provosts Leslie Hallick OHSU. Portland's Higher Education Agenda for the 21st Century. Committee Dalton chairing is related to Participation, Access, and Completion. OUS-OHSU building proposal – program collaboration proposal. Sustainability. How do we take a systems perspective. With respect to OUS-OHSU. What has emerged – still very much in motion – a series of ideas that have a lot of potential if they are done collaboratively. Public Health – 3 institutions have programs in public health but accredited as a single program – biomedical engineering. OTRODI – drug discovery research – center of excellence – collaborative research activity. Initial thrust of drugs against infections – chemical biology. Pharmacy is a joint degree already. A 4 year program – students enter in Corvallis campus 2 years and then here 2 years. Moved down to base of tram. Has a lot of overlap with OTRADI. For our part. State G-bonds for OUS component. Hybrid building that neither of us could do for ourselves.

Tested to be sure have a realistic business model. Collaborative programs would benefit – potentially financially. Third piece – economic development oriented. Tech transfer into commercial center. This state for all its investment in biotechnology – and all growth – does not have a real incubator. That is something Universities can afford to do. Partnership with the city, PDC (Portland Development Commission) to build a modest incubator where little spinouts can grow. Infrastructure support for fledgling companies. We just don't have. Another is a GMP – Good Manufacturing Practice facility. If you want to put something into people – has to be generated in a GMP facility – has to be all by itself – an environment with walls around it and everything controlled – running as FDA mini facility. We don't have that available for stuff to go to into early clinical trials. Every company asks about that – would be catalytic. We are now down to 2 buildings – two big ones. A clinical trials office. Would love to collaborate. Have investigators who have stuff that have the potential to get into clinical trials. It is the research center where you coordinate things. Do the administration of clinical trials – takes a lot of effort to do it right – for any one – doesn't take a whole person. Have infrastructure that can do that. They can manage a lot of clinical trials. Have institutions participate that wouldn't otherwise. One of impediments to collaboration are differences between indirect contract stuff. Various models – shell models with its own rate and all can go into that bucket – interinstitutional agreements – idea to create structures that make it easy to work together in funded areas.

Legislative Update – Niel Bryant. Waiting for June revenue forecast. Deferred decision on salary. Concerned about what the economy is going to do. May wait until September. On the optimistic side – they have been conservative on budgeting so far. Even though rest of country probably has more severe problems – Oregon is doing better because they are realistic. Everyone expects revenue to go down 100-150 million more. What will the e-board (ways and means people) do? Suppose goes down 50 million – have enough in the reserves and ending balance to handle that – no one wants to go into a special session and do cuts before an election. Elections take place in November – concentrate on that – can't campaign during special session – risk making people unhappy. Will go into special session only if economy rally tanks. Suppose June is not too bad – won't release money – may release some. Other agencies like higher ed have spent the money with commitments made to employees. But legislature is pretty conservative and will hold onto an amount. Could hold whole amount until September. If gets progressively worse, will continue to hold money. If can wait until after the election will turn it over to new legislature. Puts on all the campuses. Everyone relied on the 28.5 million which is our share and right now it is not there. (George – we are spending it). That is where we sit. Have a cap on tuition – can't raise tuition. If didn't get any money would have to raise tuition 6% on undergraduate residents to make it up. That is how much would be needed. Can't raise revenues. Hope money is released. If not, have to deal with it. DAS has asked the chancellor to pose the question to each campus what would happen if got 50% or 0% and each campus is now responding to the chancellor who will have discussions with it. Politically make sure legislature understands the impact of this. Need to understand the box it puts everyone in. Little glimmer of hope – asked us not to spend moneys on supplies to tune of 3.6 million – didn't take it out of budgets during the session. So that is a bit of hope. Next few months – especially those that serve on the E-board – this is really

important to us. PSU's share is 5,000,000. Thank the legislators for what they have already done. Looking to 2009. We are still exhausted from the special session – your normal planning is rushed. Putting together budget request – governor gets policy packages – he will call in George in but won't know details until November. Can't do much concerning the Governor. On December 1 he will publish his budget. Then the games begin because if you get a good budget want to hold on to it – tricky for a state agency – board appointed by governor – have to have conversations with legislators carefully. Faculty are not restricted that way. Most effective with your individual legislatures. Saw shift of power going to Portland – PSU has more power than they used to. Used to be had leaders from regional areas – regionals don't have as much power. Harder now for people from those areas who don't have leaders. Just have to be more effective.

State Board Report – George Pernsteiner. Governor is continuing to be optimistic. April is the telling month – people are adjusting their withholding – get a whole bunch of data in April. State Economist is cautious – his February forecast – conservative – forecast in increase in personal income tax. It was the corporate that tumbled. Almost no corporate income tax left. Also assuming unemployment wasn't going to get a lot worse. Will be interesting to see what happens to personal income tax in April. But none of other indicators changed very much. That is positive news in light of the national scene where things are tanking. President denies there is a recession – 32 states are cutting their budgets. Washington is not among them. Governor proposes corporate tax in rainy day fund. But we still have rainy day fund and a surplus. So budget as passed still could be real. But legislature fears things could get worse. Overall, compared to most states, we are holding up reasonably well so far. And we have reserves that a lot of state's don't have. No political will to tap those reserves. Governor willing to take a round of cuts before tapping funds. Don't need special session if willing to do an across the board cut. We won't know until June forecast what the outlines are. If outlines are as looks – limp along strategy for the rest of year. Won't see the salary money in 2008. If economy picks up, we may get some most of the money. Not likely to get all of the money. If economy doesn't pick up, will lose most or all of the salary money. If bottom falls out will know in June. It is 9.5 in current year and 19.2 in year 2. So is 28.6. Have provided to campuses to DAS estimates and campuses are supposed to get back with what the likely impact is. One set of terms – what kind of tuition increase would take to buy back 9.5%. A good argument to make to legislatures. Other have to signal series of reductions. If don't get the money – your campuses are squirreling away that money – they have known that is coming. You already have entered into contracts which generates costs, don't know revenue, try to avoid spending anywhere – bad long strategy – we have done time immemorial. Not what we are going to suggest to DAS – shows no pain and impact on students. Bad strategy. Have asked campuses to do – now how are going to limp thru the issue – what is the long term of not having the revenue to balance costs – that is what we want to discuss with the DAS. Cash flow thru problem doesn't solve problem. Have to address this as a problem. Interesting and difficult set of discussions to have. Don't know if is real. Don't know if or how much won't get from the state. Won't get that information for another year by which time all the money will have been spent. Terrible for planning.

So that is the 07/09 situation. Not dire. Is it problematic. Yes. Do we want to talk about this in terms of negative effects for long periods of time. Have to wait until we hear back from the campuses on what we are going to do. Dalton – adjunct and fixed term faculty back. George. We don't want to do that any more. We may also eliminate classes – not going to fill tenure track position – going to find an adjunct. SOU is down 50 majors – that is an effect of things we did last year. What would resonate as a problem for PSU would not resonate as a problem for the UO. Track student at risk? In terms of student success – in the aggregate – we have never been better. Need to disaggregate it. Stay tuned – we will know more next time. In terms of 09-11 Board will be considering more policy packages – Package 101 is our main package last time – included faculty salary money and enrollment growth. We will do that again. Talk about serving hard to serve students. Second is funding degrees rather than students. How do we begin the transition from FTE model to a degree oriented model. Portion of enrollment funding related to that. Third thing is buy down of tuition at regional tuition so they freeze tuition at current levels. Have the legislature buy down the delta. Those campuses are more price competitive with their peers. We are a high cost state. We are actually not – we are low cost state for someone like UO in comparison to peers. But high costs for regionals in comparison to their peers. Have to be more specific in terms of tuition policies and embed that in the package. The governor still intends to propose 10% in our budget. Easier to do that with a package everyone is expecting than with a bunch of new things. Student success. Embed that in Package 101. Will have graduate education package, package for ETIC. Usual things. One on teacher ed. In collaboration with department of ed. Run healthcare work force. Run one in ormed as well. Want to spend our attention Package 101 worked last time. That ought to be the vehicle. Bring us to middle of pack for student investment – faculty salaries, funding for enrollment growth, reducing student/faculty ratio. They are expecting that. They funded installment 1 of a multiinstallment plan. All are saying – you are going to bring us that package again. What do we put in package. Do we recalibrate and how do we approach it. That package should be close to what the governor gives us.

Funding degrees not students. Coming from national associations are now saying state should invest in degrees not students – that is what the state should want. State is in business of procuring from Universities bachelors, masters, professional degrees. Several states are looking at a way to go in this direction. Everyone recognize this resonates well – but that is going to take several billion. End up with one institution getting really rich if that is all you do or you make the framework very complex. Successful outcome is an educated student – producing a product – the product is the number of degrees – people that are employable. Do in it a way that doesn't wreck havoc.

Fund numbers that graduate. Fund improvement over where you were expected to be anyway. An incentive? The state legislature is paying for an “educated populace” i.e. degrees. Example is health force workplace degrees – they paid for that. The corporatization of higher education. This is the endgame – measure how many faculty does it take to produce 500 degrees. Measure efficiency of degrees. Quality drops out. Benefit of using technology.

Governor committed to capitol construction – willing to do the arena – 1800 jobs. That is a big project. Maintenance budgets still fine. Deferred maintenance and repair dollars are not affected by this. Governor and DAS will propose another increase in next biennium – don't know if will be approved of course. Right now that one is holding. The salary money is under control of e-board. Because it is in the e-board is being dealt with it. Across board cuts to agencies vs us is huge difference. Transfer to K-12 and community colleges – they don't have any money tied up in salary board – they are held harmless. If do across board cuts, they could lose money. So that is their motivation.

Investment over time. George is still hopeful. Can't predict what the next series of revenue forecasts will show. If have short and shallow recession can legitimately argue for 10% increase the way the Governor has been talking. If have deeper recession – all bets are off. Some think is going to be the worst since the depression.

Had meeting about the regionals. Will be having discussions with regard to student services, financial aid, processing. Report to board in July on what consultant finds. Sustainability summit – one of Provosts suggested and we all agreed need to infuse throughout curriculum sustainability that is a good job for the IFS. Sabat suggested it. Really was a strong affirmation of the faculty in this whole area – it is curriculum – bringing together people from all campuses. Make some strong statements to our legislators. Waters, rivers, wind, energy is a problem. What can we do with the expertise. The curriculum one – not try to come up with every campus should have some sustainability courses – how can we create a sustainability culture. The discussion that we had yesterday focused – if this is the next big thing – and if this is a competitive advantage Oregon enjoys – how do we ensure that principles and practices of sustainability are infused throughout the curriculum so every student comes away with an embracing of that. The faculty will drive a lot of this on the research and identification of areas for focus on investment. Come up with list of areas that people identified that we want to take a look at it. Convene groups of faculty across disciplines and campuses. Include a lot of folks. Understanding that this is going to be part of fabric of who we are. No real expectation of any short term outcomes. This is a longer term project.

Saturday 5 April

Report on the board meeting Lee Ayers. Discuss funding problem. George's message – what won't we be able to do – has to come down to the student level. Oregonians pushed back into other schools with no other place to go. The F for affordability on report card. Seeing – how do we measure it in something the legislature understands and that has meaning.

Announced a conference in September – Irish American higher education research organization. Looking for collaborations. Evolving and we shouldn't drop notice. Portland September 2008.

Report on the board meeting Dalton. Felt the charge to committee for charge and completion had focus around minority community – that is a no brainer. As I traveled around the state – real tragedy in rural communities – see that as part of our charge – held a couple of meetings in rural communities – they were very appreciative of recognition by board and our desire to hear from them in their own voice about their experiences. Larger community could hear their story. Very powerful. OSA report was brief and to the report. Represent 100,000 student. Priority issues are increasing need based aid, expansion of student child care, tuition, Oregon students of color – tuition equity – recruitment and retention. Tuition equity – move to have students who are children of undocumented workers who have been in Oregon Highschools for the past 3 years qualify for in state tuition. If you came to Oregon undocumented as a child. Issue of tuition and funding – focus on regional Universities. Want policy option package to spotlight regional Universities. Regional sustainability fund – want to have more resources put in there. A very good presentation. At Eastern had made strides in short amount of time in being innovative. Unique perspective on what works best for their students and community. Need to acknowledge and support them. Board got reports from various commttees. Governance committee – run by Paul Kelly – issues of reorganization of regional campuses in some respects and concerning decision making in Portland. Is there benefit in consolidating certain services.

Again. These are intended only for the members of the UO Senate. They are rough notes and not normative.

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Member UO Senate 2007/8
Member InterInstitutional Faculty Senate 2008.