

MEETING #432
OREGON STUDENT ACCESS COMMISSION
Friday, August 23, 2013
Oregon Student Access Commission
Columbia Room
Eugene, OR

COMMISSIONERS

Gary Weeks
Glenda Melton
Mike Holland
Shawn Fincher
Bart Howard

STAFF

Bob Brew
Vic Nunenkamp
Lori Ellis
Susan Degen
Peggy Cooksey
Vickie Potoski
Kristin Vreeland
Kyra Mathews
Gary Campbell

GUESTS

Hilda Rosselli, Oregon Education Investment Board
Denise Callahan, The Ford Family Foundation
Mary Robinson, Oregon University System
Belle Cantor, Oregon Community Foundation
Art Franks, Oregon Community Foundation
Maesie Spear, Oregon Community Foundation
Brent Wilder, The Alliance
Bill McGee, DAS Office of the Chief Financial Officer

CALL TO ORDER

Commission Chair Weeks called the meeting to order at 9:32 am. It was noted a quorum was not present due to the slight delayed arrival of two commissioners. The meeting proceeded with The Chair Commissioner's Report pending their arrival.

CHAIR'S/COMMISSIONER'S REPORT

Chair Weeks announced having received the resignation of Commissioner Holland, stating he is disappointed but fully understands the necessity of doing so. Commissioner Holland stated he has decided to take a short-term position with Clackamas Community College which requires his resigning in order to be consistent with state law. Commissioner Holland expressed having enjoyed his 3 years as a member of the Commission stating he is happy with the improved leadership demonstrated by Bob Brew and Vic Nunenkamp, and with staff who have done a wonderful job. He thanked Chair Weeks for his effective leadership style. Commissioner Holland stated he is optimistic the legacy of the current Commission will carry forward.

Chair Weeks thanked Commissioner Holland for his time and service. He stated he will also follow up with Ben Cannon to decide if the Commission will proceed with either a temporary appointment, or to carry the vacancy as there are enough members for a quorum with two new student appointees expected in September.

Chair Weeks provided an update on the appointments of Vic Nunenkamp and Bob Brew stating he was able to accomplish the salary increases discussed at the last meeting to reflect the work they do. He thanked Susie Hosie at DAS/HR stating she has done a terrific job throughout the year.

The delayed commissioners arrived. Chair Weeks brought them up to speed on what was discussed prior to their arrival. Having a quorum present, the meeting continued with the Consent Calendar agenda item.

CONSENT CALENDAR

Chair Weeks made motion to approve the minutes from meeting #431. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Holland. The minutes were unanimously approved.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Bob Brew thanked Commissioner Holland stating it has been a pleasure to work with him and he hopes Commissioner Holland will continue to be involved with the agency.

Mr. Brew presented a review of the 2012-13 Annual Report encouraging all present to look at it in depth.

Chair Weeks asked if the Annual Report will be available on the agency website. Mr. Brew stated the report, if approved, will be available on the website and partners will receive a link via e-mail.

Mr. Brew provided an overview of an Oregon Opportunity Grant (OOG) related project he and Susan Degen are working on in conjunction with a professor of economics and other research partners. The project looks at the effectiveness of OOG and looks at data that will be useful for future legislation and for the HECC going forward.

Mr. Brew provided an update on the scholarship application stating it is going swimmingly. The project is on track and they are keeping partners linked into the approach and process.

At the suggestion of Chair Weeks, Mr. Brew provided the history of the challenges of the last scholarship season and recent correspondence from the Oregon Community Foundation (OCF). Mr. Brew stated the responses from both OCF and The Ford Family Foundation (TFFF) were heartening and in the spirit of true partnership. TFFF renewed their contract for 1 year with the agreement to meet again next fall in hopes of negotiating a longer term contract. The recent correspondence from OCF outlined valuable, reasonable and responsible performance expectations; he would expect nothing less.

Chair Weeks commented it is important to acknowledge that the agency has been cut a lot of slack by two critical partners and there is an opportunity now to work with them to make the system something our partners can depend on, as was experienced historically. Chair Weeks expressed appreciation for the partners and stated the transition to HECC will be smooth; HECC will not be burdened with an administrative challenge.

Chair Weeks stated Bob Brew has done a good job of bringing all the pieces together and keeping all informed.

Commissioner Howard stated he would like 2h Systems to present at the next meeting. Mr. Brew confirmed he will make the necessary arrangements.

Chair Weeks took a moment to express gratitude for our partner representatives from OCF and TFFF to work with the agency and for being present at the meeting. He asked if they had anything to add to the conversation. Both were in agreement that there was nothing to add, other than they believe the agency is on a good path.

Commissioner Howard asked OCF about the current situation with their donors and if there is anything the Commission can do to help. Belle Cantor stated they are still assessing what needs to be done directly and who needs to reach out; if the offer is still on the table for the Commission to reach out directly, they would appreciate such assistance once they have identified the needs. Chair Weeks confirmed the offer is absolutely available.

Mr. Brew provided a financial update. Chair Weeks asked if the agency is within budget. Mr. Brew confirmed the agency is within budget for the close of the biennium and for the first 2 months of the new biennium.

SCHOLARSHIP AND ACCESS PROGRAMS

Vic Nunenkamp provided an update on the status of various program related projects and outcomes:

- 5 new scholarship funds were established
- Work continues with OCF on multiple awards with 1 finalized
- Publications production is underway for the upcoming 2013-14 academic year
- A personal letter to school counselors and districts regarding the application is in development
- Luncheons with key partners (TFFF and OCF) to discuss future plans are in progress
- Review of position descriptions and completing performance reviews are underway

Chair Weeks asked if the publications items being prepared will be sent to the Commission prior to distribution. Ms. Nunenkamp answered yes.

There being no questions or comments about the Scholarships and Access update, Vic Nunenkamp turned the meeting over to Lori Ellis to present an update on the ASPIRE program.

ASPIRE UPDATE

Lori Ellis thanked the Commission for their time and the opportunity to present the ASPIRE program update. Ms. Ellis stated the current biennium focus will be on program sustainability, solidifying procedures, integrating pilot programs, and staff training. A boot camp training is upcoming where the entire team will 'live ASPIRE'. Recent milestones for sustainability and expansion include the completion of a formal recruitment packet, the development of a program informational packet, and the creation of an ASPIRE Executive Summary.

Ms. Ellis distributed to each commissioner a copy of the 2012-13 annual ASPIRE Executive Summary and provided a review of the document.

Discussion was held about social media presence, and feedback received from students as a means of evaluation, application tracking, and roles at the site level.

Chair Weeks commented the evaluation piece is very important especially given there will be a new commission and future policy makers who are not familiar with ASPIRE.

Commissioner Howard asked if the number of sites is capped at 145. Ms. Ellis stated there is funding for 145, but the team would look at other funding options/efforts if there were proposed additional sites.

Chair Weeks thanked Ms. Ellis for the presentation stating it was great and exactly what they were looking for.

OREGON OPPORTUNITY GRANT UPDATE

Susan Degen presented the OOG Advisory Group policy recommendations requiring Commission action:

Advisory Group policy recommendations for 2013-14:

1. Waiver of fall enrollment requirement
2. Suspension of limiting award amounts for half-time enrollment
3. Dependency overrides (allow) and professional judgments (do not allow)

Discussion followed regarding policy language, tuition waiver and continuation requirements.

Chair Weeks called for a motion to adopt Advisory Group 2013-14 Recommendations #1-4. Commissioner Holland motioned to adopt Advisory Group 2013-14 Recommendations #1-4 and Commissioner Melton seconded. The recommendations were unanimously adopted.

Advisory Group policy recommendation for 2014-15:

1. Income Limit
2. Student Share
3. Family share
4. Federal share
5. Pro-rata Reduction
6. Award Amounts – continue flat award amount for 1 year; increase maximum award amount from \$2,000 to \$2,100
7. Application deadline
8. Disbursement reporting schedule

Discussion followed with new information from Bob Brew regarding a 2% holdback of previously anticipated funds that has not been appropriated. In light of the new information, Mr. Brew recommended continuing the \$2,000 flat award and revisiting the idea of increasing to \$2,100 if/when funds are appropriated for this purpose.

Commissioner Holland stated it needs to be made clearer to students that there is an advantage to applying as soon as the application process begins. Discussion followed and it was agreed that the language on the website and printed material will be revisited in the future.

Chair Weeks called for a motion to adopt Advisory Group 2014-15 Recommendations #1-8, with amendment to #6 to continue the flat award amount of \$2,000. Commissioner Holland motioned to adopt Advisory Group 2014-15 Recommendations #1-8, with amendment to #6 to continue the flat award amount of \$2,000, and Commissioner Howard seconded. The recommendations were unanimously adopted with amendment to #6 as noted.

Bob Brew stated he would notify agency budget advisors as a matter of courtesy that we are deviating with good reason from the original letter to them concerning 201B4-15 award amounts.

Peggy Cooksey presented results of the Boards & Commissioner Best Practices Performance Measure Assessment Scorecard.

Commissioner Howard asked about alignment of Commission goals with the agency mission statement and values. Discussion ensued and it was agreed the subject would be revisited in the future.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment.

OTHER BUSINESS AND ADJOURNMENT

Chair Weeks called for other business to come before the commission at this time. There being no further business, Commissioner Melton moved to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 11:48a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Approved by Commission at Meeting #433 on 9/27/2013

Gary Weeks, Chair
