

OCCA BOARD MEETING
Salem Convention Center
January 23, 2007
TIME: 9:00 – 11:00 A.M.

ATTENDANCE:

Marilyn Lane (Board President, Clatsop); Chuck Clemans (Clackamas); Susan Plass (BMCC); Bob Talboy (BMCC); Ed Dodson (CCC); Ernie Keller (CGCC); Frank Toda (CGCC); Joanne Truesdall (Clackamas); Ron Adams (Clackamas); Jim Middleton (COCC); Connie Lee (COCC); Fred Smith (KCC); Don McCasland (KCC); Mike Holland (LBCC); Brian Freeman (MHCC); Bob Silverman (MHCC); Rex Krabbe (OCCC); Pat O'Connor (OCCC); Preston Pulliams (PCC); Jaime Lim (PCC); Peter Angstadt (RCC); Sharon Davidson (RCC); Dean Wendle (RCC); Cherie Mitchell (SOCC); Jim Sorensen (TVCC), Blaine Nisson (UCC); Tom Keel (UCC).

OTHERS:

Cam Preus-Braly (CCWD); Andrea Henderson, Kathryn Dysart, Karen Smith, Lori Sattenspiel, Julie Suchanek, Wendy Thorp, Megan Jensen, Rick Levine (OCCA); Kevin McCann, Oregon School Board Association.

CALL TO ORDER:

Marilyn Lane, OCCA Board President, called the meeting to order at 9:08 a.m.

INTRODUCTIONS:

Lane introduced Joanne Truesdell, the new interim president of Clackamas Community College. Lane also asked attendees to introduce themselves. Lane acknowledged the loss of Doreen Margolin, PCC board chair and former OCCA president. Preston Pulliams thanked the group for their condolences.

Consent Agenda

Lane asked for a revision of minutes.

MOTION: Don McCasland moved to adopt the consent agenda.

SECOND: Brian Freeman

VOTE: Passed, no opposition

Reports

1. President's Report (Marilyn Lane)

- Lane talked about staffing changes at OSBA and commended the organization for their grassroots lobbying efforts.
- High school graduation requirement changes were passed at the state board meeting on January 19, 2007.
- Andrea Henderson and Lane spoke to a Chemeketa leadership group organized by Leslie Sanchez to inform them of legislative processes.

2. Legislative Committee Chair (Connie Lee)

Lee noted the time change to 11:00 a.m. for the Monday legislative conference calls and stated that minutes will be sent via email by Karen. The agenda will include the link to Billview.

3. Executive Director (Andrea Henderson)

- Henderson testified in front of the House and Senate Education committees. There seems to be strong support for college issues.
- Referred to the Joint Ways and Means committee handout:
 - Discussed the revenue forecast committee
 - Regarding post-secondary education budget, cuts to the budget and increases in financial aid show that that the budget has not kept pace
 - Noted that capital construction budget is large for community colleges and the Oregon University System.
- Discussed staffing changes. Wendy Thorpe is the new office and events manager. Megan Jensen is the Executive Assistant and Assistant to the Oregon Presidents' Council.
- Lane introduced Rick Levine, lobbyist for OCCA.

4. Presidents Council Chair (Jim Sorenson)

Sorenson discussed the distribution of \$2 million among community colleges and workforce strategy. The \$529 million requested budget would help community colleges make progress but the Governor's budget is better than in past years. The Presidents' Council will meet tomorrow starting at 1:30 p.m.

5. State Board of Education (Frank Toda, substituting for Brenda Frank)

Frank Toda comment

Sorensen talked about CODs. John Turner will provide report on compression to the Board of Education.

6. State Board of Higher Education (Gretchen Schuette)

No report.

7. OSAC (Dean Wendle)

3100 students received scholarships and 24,000 students received Opportunity Grants. The shared responsibility model will increase funding for each community college student that is eligible and will raise income level requirements for qualifications. Wendle noted that the ASPIRE program, which was funded by private foundations, is included in the Governor's budget.

What else did he talk about – listen to tape

8. OCCSA

No report.

DISCUSSION

1. Strategic Plan Update (Marilyn Lane)

No discussion.

2. Statewide Decision Making (Marilyn Lane)

Lane passed out an organizational chart titled “Community College Leadership Structure.” She appointed a subcommittee to work on framing the next stage of discussion. Subcommittee members will include Brian Freeman (Chair), Connie Lee, Mary Spilde, Greg Hamann and Sharon Davidson.

3. OCCA 2007-08 Budget Discussion (Andrea Henderson)

No discussion.

4. Tuition Policy (Andrea Henderson)

Henderson would like to put together an OCCA board position on tuition policy for conversations with legislative budget leaders. The default position has been that tuition is a local board issue but the downside is that the legislature is not very receptive to that position. Henderson recommended that the Presidents’ Council discuss the issue and work with OCCA staff on a proposal for the March board meeting. Lane commented that in addition to the Presidents’ Council, the subcommittee could come up with recommendations on a benchmark tuition policy that can be used at individual colleges.

The board discussed the process of deciding on a general tuition policy. Comments included

- Student associations should be included in the conversation.
- If the system of local governance is removed, the legislature will be allowed to make major policy decisions.
- Tuition should be kept as low as possible and the tuition rates will be different for different schools depending on local issues.

Jim Middleton clarified that the issue is not whether the legislature should control community college tuition rates but rather how conversation with the legislature should take place to maintain local control. Brian Freeman suggested taking a position in opposition to state control over tuition and that the Presidents’ Council will agree. Henderson will draft a proposal without having it go to the Presidents’ Council.

BUSINESS

1. OCCA Audit (Andrea Henderson)

No discussion.

2. 1% Plan Position (Connie Lee)

Under the 1% Plan Position, students who move through the educational system faster will owe less money. The plan is an acceleration model based on performance and reimburses students for completing an Associate’s degree within one year or a Bachelor’s degree within three years of high school graduation. There are intriguing ideas but the bill would have a budget impact that is not allocated for in this biennium. There are some policy obstacles in

relation to the bill to answer and the plan requires further discussion. The discussion should include other partners because the basic school, higher education, and community college support funds will be taxed. The issue of whether tax dollars should support students with no demonstrated financial need should be addressed.

MOTION: **Mike Holland moved to remain neutral on the 1% Plan proposal until there is a larger policy-based conversation within various organizations.**
SECOND: **Don McCasland**
VOTE: **Passed, no opposition**

3. Educators Benefit Trust (Insurance Pool – SB 355) Position (Kevin McCann)

McCann referred to the handout “Comparison of PEBB Pool vs. OSBA Health Insurance Trust Pool” which shows that the OSBA pool is less expensive than the current state-run PEBB pool. OSBA does not have the cost for community colleges because there is not enough data currently available on the number of community college employees. A state-run pool would put the OSBA pool out of business. It appears that the broader strategy is to put all public entities into one insurance pool. The income from the insurance pool provides \$2.5 million in revenue to OSBA, which is put back into services for school districts and colleges. OSBA opposes the bill (the new number is SB 426)

Concerns were raised regarding the actual amount of money saved and McCann stated that in the 2005 session, the number ranged from \$40 to \$200 million, with no valid data in support. A question was raised concerning the procedure for discerning “eligible” employees. Henderson explained that an employee is eligible if he or she works half-time or more. If the employee works less than half-time, a new board will be given the authority to determine eligibility. The new board would consist of two board members, two administrators, four union members, and two other members with insurance and risk management experience.

Henderson explained that if the board opposes the bill, there will be no opportunity to add an amendment to the bill and there will be mandatory benefits required for half-time employees. An amendment would give community colleges the authority to define eligible employees, but OCCA would not be able to oppose the bill once an amendment was made. If the board takes a neutral position, the bill will pass and insurance costs will increase.

MOTION: **John Turner moved to oppose the bill and make an amendment that the local board determine the definition of an employee.**
SECOND: **Ernie Keller**

Henderson clarified the impact of the motion. If the board opposes the bill and the bill passes, community colleges will pay insurance benefits to half-time employees in the future. It does contain an opt-out provision but members cannot leave once they join. It was asked if the board could choose to take no position on the bill. Henderson responded that an option would be to give OCCA lobbyists direction to negotiate changes to the bill but to have a neutral position officially. The bill is more likely to pass during this session than last session. Discussion followed on which position to take.

MOTION: John Turner moved to oppose the bill and give the authority to lobby for mitigating language if the bill passes.

SECOND: Chuck Clemans

VOTE: Passed, no opposition

4. Skill Up Proposal (HB 2206) Position (Connie Lee)

Henderson provided an overview of the bill, which would create \$10 million from an increase in the corporate minimum tax to fund the program. Henderson recommended support of the concept but noted that the bill as drafted provides that the local workforce boards will provide the training. The bill could be amended to state that community colleges would be the primary provider of trainings if the issue would not create dissention in the legislature.

The board discussed concerns surrounding allowing private providers to provide the training. Henderson restated the recommended position, which is to support the concept, oppose the bill as written because of the language and ask the Presidents' Council to work on language changes or look at opportunities to clarify community colleges as primary providers.

MOTION: Sharon Davidson moved to support the concept of Skill Up; oppose the bill as drafted because of specific language around the mandated training of local boards; support the concept of community colleges as the primary provider and instruct OCCA staff to bring up the issue only if it will not create conflict with Workforce partners; and that the Presidents' Council will work on additional language.

SECOND: Tom Keel

In a voice vote, the motion was passed as follows:

BMCC	Yes	COCC	No
LBCC	Yes	Chemeketa	No
MHCC	Yes	Clackamas	No
RCC	Yes	Clatsop	No
SOCC	Yes	Klamath	No
TVCC	Yes	OCCC	No
UCC	Yes	PCC	No
CGCC	Yes		

WRAP-UP

Henderson asked if the board would like OCCA to do anything differently in next year's budget. Mileage will be a separate line item. A request was made for a proposal on federal lobbyists for the group to consider. Henderson will bring a draft budget to the next meeting for discussion. The budget will be adopted in May.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 11:07 a.m.