Executive Council Meeting

May 21, 2014

Chemeketa Community College

**Present:** Molly Walsh, Helen Faith, Michelle Holdway, Susan Degen, Stacie Englund, Ashley Coleman, Lindsey Thaler, Suzie Peterson, Kevin Multop, Lois DeGhetto, Kathy Campbell

**Meeting called to order at 10:10am** by Helen Faith

**Housekeeping:** Restrooms are down the hall; wireless info up on the white board

**Review minutes and approve:** Molly moves to approve; Ashley seconds; call for discussion; unanimous passing of motion

**Treasurer’s Report:** Income overall is down, but expenditures are down, so net income is okay; only a few outstanding costs; projected to finish out the year in good shape; item of interest: a few assets—the final CD we had matured at the end of February; we’ve discussed investing that in another vehicle; let’s discuss the possibility of something different, including investing in NASFAA, possibility was discussed back in2012 to invest; minimum investment amount required $150k, current balance is $184k in our money market; does anyone remember if a vote was taken back in 2012 when it was discussed? Donna Fulton discussed it back when she was president; Suzie doesn’t recall anything done differently with funds—wonders if change in investment vehicle would be beneficial, and how much time does the treasurer have to look into the benefits of changing investment. Kathy asked if there was a penalty to move money, whether there was a penalty to withdraw money from the money market. Helen says that WASFAA has invested with NASFAA with good results; Michelle will do research to find out costs associated with moving it from one vehicle into another. Michelle says we need to do something with the money…can’t let it sit in the money market account. Helen wonders if we need more liquidity for expenses and Michelle says we have $13k available in the checking account that some outstanding checks still have yet to clear. That’s a higher balance than we want in checking,…we want about $5k. Minimum of $150k that has to stay with NASFAA, which leaves us with an additional $50k that we can have in money market and checking. Susan Degen asked if there were fees associated with maintaining the money market account…Michelle recalls from her memory that there’s a monthly fee…Susan wonders if pulling money out would cost money, or if putting money into a NASFAA fidelity investment vehicle would cost money. Kathy says she assumes there will be some admin fee. Questions remaining: How much to pull out of money market, minimum balance required? How much to put into NASFAA and if the market changes, do we have to put more in to maintain the $150k? The assumption is that the money will get a greater return with the NASFAA investment. Michelle will do more research.

Suzie moves to approve treasurer report; Lois seconds. No discussion; motion unanimously passed.

**Old Business:**

**Annual Conference Report**: We have a list of conference volunteers; we’d like more members to give presentations; made a timeline of what we need to do; meetings in July, Aug, Oct, January. Need to make motion to approve Ashley as co-chair given Frankie’s departure, and a vote to approve Ashley as replacement co-chair.

Kara moved, Molly seconded. No discussion. Motion passed.

**Archives:** no archives chair at the moment; we need one. All archives are in WOU basement, where former Archives chair worked. Ideas about where to put the archives…about 6 banker’s boxes worth of stuff. No one has expressed interest in Archives Chair since 2011. People can do as much or as little as they feel necessary (e.g. convert to electronic records).

**Fund Development:** Proposed change of chair; Frankie has departed, Kara put forth as new chair. Suzie moves to approve; Lois seconds, no discussion, motion passed

**FA 101/201:** Report by Kathy; Ryan will be replaced as a presenter; we need someone experienced and who will represent all segments; money was earned for OASFAA w/ 101/201. Instead of doing prizes funded by individuals, let’s order a portfolio with OASFAA logo or a bag for giveaways for FA 101/201. We may or may not need budget adjustment for that expense since we made money last year. Ashley asked if they have committee members; Kathy says we’ll have committee members at the next meeting and they’ll ask past faculty to continue in future years. They will let us know if a budget increase needs to happen based on costs of giveaway items. Kathy shared a positive feedback story of how much an attendee learned at 101/201 and was able to later use.

**HS Counselor Training:** No Report

**Legislative:** Sen. Cory Booker (D, NJ) “Simplifying Financial Aid for Students for 2014” introducing bill…adjusts auto-threshold for zero EFC up to $30k, prior-prior year income use change. The question remains of what kind of problems FA professionals would encounter looking at prior-prior year. If not just income/assets prior-prior year info comes over, but demographic info also (residency, etc), how would it effect other aid programs. May have to split prior-prior info and prior year info for fed and state—a poll will be taken to see how many states have statutes that would make this administratively difficult. Kathy asked what the benefit is of using prior-prior rule—data retrieval tool would work immediately upon filing FAFSA in January (don’t have to wait for taxes to be filed). Huge increase in PJs because of prior-prior year rule. Tradeoff would be that we wouldn’t have to do as many verifications, but still some. College Board conducted study to show net effect of using prior-prior year and it was kind of a wash….some winners and some losers…didn’t make a significant difference in who got what aid, but it could make a big difference in certain state programs. Kevin asked if NASFAA supports it. Susan isn’t sure.

Senator Elizabeth Warren (D, MA) plans to introduce a student loan refinance bill to reconsolidate for lower interest rates; idea is to give students with older loans with higher rates to reduce interest; some talk of trying to include private loans in that…it gets messy.

Negotiated rulemaking—session #4 happened this week (only supposed to be 3 sessions) on outstanding issue: definition of adverse credit for PLUS eligibility—tentative agreement to look at outstanding balance of a little more than $2k that are past due; cash management rule on use of sponsored accounts has yet to be resolved and state authorization of distance programs has yet to be resolved. Only 2 people doing authorizations for hundreds of programs around the country. Even if one student from a state are enrolled in an online program, they still have to have the state authorized their program.

Modified diplomas: task force looks at entire high school or even middle school forward into post secondary life for students with disabilities. The way transcripts are done…no consistency…stamped “modified” across the top, some have individual courses listed as modified. If a student transfers HSs, it’s unclear if they are under the modified diploma umbrella depending on how the school treats the transcript. Rules for federal aid change as these policies in school districts don’t change. State of Oregon has codified standards for modified and regular diplomas; in the mind of many, this means that modified diplomas are considered the same as standard diplomas; talk of resurrecting Ability to Benefit. Email from Ben Cannon went out: notifying modified and extended diplomas are the same as regular and should be considered the same. This affects community colleges the most, but the guidance is that it should be approved as regular diploma but with lots of documentation for each place. Kathy says not all modified diplomas are students with IEP; there will be lots of people with modified diplomas who are college ready, but as the standards increase for graduation and college readiness, there will be more modified diplomas. They are not all students with disabilities. The bigger worry is that there will be a flood of students with disabilities that will end up being a drain on the institutional resources. The jury may still be out on what this means with respect to federal aid. Feds have always left it up to the states; make sure everything is documented if you’re treating students with modified diplomas as regular diploma recipients.

**Membership:** 2014-15 app is available; deadline is May 31. No stats, as it’s fluctuating wildly right now with active registration happening. Listserv goes out to all members or lapsed members for the past 3 years. All co-chairs have access to listserv for that group. They can send out their announcements about events to the group. Ryan was going to look into changing membership cycle time to better align with college budget years. We’d have to put this out to the membership for a vote to change our bylaws…either we can do it at summer drive-in or conference. Could be a good vote item for conference, given that we’re in the midst of renewals now, and change til next year anyway. Kathy will speak with Ryan about steps to pursue change of membership year. OASFAA’s tax year coincides with July 1 as well. No one recalls why Membership cycle of May 31 was established.

**Mentoring:** no co-chairs present; nothing new to discuss or vote on. They are asking for a higher budget; they’re not here to tell us why. We’ll ask for details and vote on it for the next meeting. They spent much less than they originally asked for, so they were budgeted for less; could be that they forgot to update the budget request figure.

**Newsletter:** no chair present; some new members on the committee…need to approve new co-chair and new members via vote (new co chair Heather Hall Lewis nominated); recitation of report by Helen. Motion to approve Heather Hall-Lewis as co-chair: Suzie moves, Molly seconds, no discussion, motion passed. Motion to approve potential new committee members: Kevin moves, Kara seconds, no discussion, motion passed.

**OSAC Liaison:** Admin changes: Bob Brew is now official exec dir (no longer interim); name is changing because commission is being disbanded and moved under HECC…it’s now an office. Office of Student Access and Completion. Process is just now happening of informing people and making a transition on or before July 1. Commission goes “poof” and we go to HECC. As a result of name change, there’s a lot of administrative rules that have to change. There will be some sort of rule change process through HECC, not just for OSAC but other offices; memo will come out to stakeholders regarding name change and rule changes…no substantive rule changes, just name stuff. OSAC has one legislative concept: basically a housekeeping bill, no funding requirements attached: bill proposes to remove language for defunct program, combine some old fund accounts that were separated by statute, separate language for former foster youth program from the dependent children of deceased police and fire workers. Also the possibility to have a bill to make changes to OOG based on recommendations from the financial aid workgroup.

FAFSA completion project: been charged with getting out the word regarding higher completion rates of FAFSA in Oregon. Participation agreement authorizes the sharing of student level data (here’s a list of my HS seniors…tell me who completed the FAFSA) OSAC provides this info. Feds give authority to do this; typically data sharing happens very locally (one high school to a close school); we want to share w/ recognized tribes. Third parties must have direct, established contact with students to access information. Pilot program w/10 high schools (5 ASPIRE, 5 non-ASPIRE),one community college, and data sharing has already happened. FAFSA completed, FAFSA submit and process date, whether select for verification, indicator of FAFSA completion. Also possibility on supplying info for eligibility for federal or state programs.

HECC financial aid work group, the Pay it Forward work group, and the free community college workgroup. FA work group has 9 major recommendations. Pay it Forward Workgroup: designing a 20-year repayment commitment; you’ll agree to pay a percentage of your income for 20 years after you graduate to get free tuition and fees. Will recommend a pilot group for the2016-17 cohort. A pilot program still involves a 25-year commitment. Students will be allowed to decide which/how many credits will be paid for each term (e.g. they can take 15 credits and only have 10 be part of the Pay it Forward); payment rate will be 1.5% of income later; how would they do the pilot—lottery, assign a group of HS grads, assign specific community college; may need a master promissory note that would be updated every term based on the number of credits in the program per term. Michelle asks how the schools will get the money; unknown. Kevin: who will administer? OSAC and dept of revenue would maybe be in charge of collection portion. Susan estimates admin costs for just the pilot (all 25 yrs) would be $10 mil. Senate Bill 1524: Free Community College. Hiring a consultant to help them; draft report due Aug 1, report to legislature by Sept 30. Questions: is it last dollar or first dollar?

**Site Selection**: None

**Strategic Planning:** None

**Summer Drive-In:** Shelle—4 committee members expressed desire to volunteer; date will be tentatively Aug 7. Kim Lanborn will speak, hopefully. 12 different sessions offered. Session on day in life of financial aid professional. Will occur at Multnomah University. Motion to approve committee members: Suzie moves, Michelle seconds, no discussion, motion passed.

**Support Staff Workshop:** recitation of report by Helen as Chippi is not present to give report. Motion to approve co-chair: Molly moves, Ashley seconds, no discussion, motion is approved.

**Technology:** no report submitted, Ben not present

**Vendor Liaison:** Lyssa not present; no report submitted

**Volunteer Committee**: Goals are to recruit more, to recognize volunteers, reach out to WASFAA volunteer chair about what they do. 14 people responded to the email about updating your volunteer preferences. 10 membership renewals contained volunteer preference updates or new volunteer preferences. Updated website to update committee information.

LUNCH BREAK

**Officer Reports:**

**Past-Pres:** no report

**Pre-Elect:** n/a

**President**: no report; been looking for a president-elect candidate

**VP 4yr Public:** OSU has several openings and a few staff members with babies; not a lot of info about OUS separation from universities…schools are forming their own boards; many unknowns

**VP 4yr Private:** nothing to report; directors meet next week so there may be more later

**VP 2yr Public:** lots of concern about default rates; program review at Rogue Community College

**VP Proprietary**: not present

 **Other or New Business:**

**Legislative Committee**: the legislature is very active in higher ed/financial aid right now and they need more information; Kathy says we should make sure whoever is our mouthpiece really knows what they’re talking about, call for volunteers; clear description of what it means to be on the committee; Susan says we may want to hook up with our own institutional gov’t affairs people to put forth our interests. We could put together recommendations to disseminate to schools for them to pass along to their concerns to the powers that be. Must keep bill docket on our radars to know what’s coming up that could be related to higher ed. WASFAA and NASFAA take positions on specific issues, and we don’t know if we want to be an association that takes a position. Susan will put out a call to gauge interest in participating in a legislative committee.

**Meeting location:** should another site be selected based on where committee members are coming from? Should we alternate locations? Is Eugene a good location? Group consensus is that meeting will be in Eugene next time. July 15th.

**Michelle:** should the giveaway items be their own line item in the main budget? Or should committees be responsible for spending out of their budgets for swag? Molly says with some companies who do logo-gear, if you use the same graphic, you can get more bang for your buck.

Suzie moves to adjourn; Shelle seconds, no discussion, motion passed.

**Meeting adjourned at 1:09pm**