

MT. HOOD COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT BOARD NEWSLETTER

FOR THE MEETING HELD ON APRIL 11, 2007

The regular meeting began with an accreditation update on Standard 7, which concerns college finances. Brenda Brady introduced Mike Wolfe and Phil Johanson who reviewed the 1997 accreditation conclusions including commendations for the college's conservative approach to management, an effective financial planning and control system, management of its enrollment decline and maintaining adequate reserves. Although much has changed in ten years, the college faces many of the same financial issues. The response must be to continue to examine the future and our positioning to best meet emerging needs. These include continuing to utilize and enhance the multi-year financial forecast, refreshing the instructional and facilities master plans, and the strategic plans, so that they can be used as tools in preparing the annual operating budgets and actively managing the scope and depth of services offered.

Dr. Silverman and Nancy Szofran presented information on enrollment at MHCC. Dr. Silverman introduced the subject with an overview of the most important variables, which include appropriations from the state, tuition/fees, financial aid, population growth, unemployment, and inflation. Nancy reviewed data showing the history of funding nationally, regionally, at the state level and at MHCC. The data shows that Oregon used to invest in and value higher education but does not anymore. Oregon is one of the last states in funding for postsecondary education, a trend that began in the early 1970s. Even though there has been a slight increase in state appropriations to higher education in recent years, they never returned to the original plateau level. Since 1980 state appropriations have been reduced by 33%. Nancy reviewed the study done by Dr. Robert Vergun which shows that despite an anticipated rise in enrollment, FTE and unduplicated headcount in 2008-09 will remain below their historically high 2001-02 levels. The primary reason for this is that credit tuition and fees, adjusted for inflation, are anticipated to be almost 50% higher in 2008-09 than in 2001-02. When colleges are faced with a drop in state funding, they raise tuition which then leads to a decrease in enrollment. Dr. Silverman summarized what is needed in the future, which includes encouraging legislators to fund community colleges appropriately and creating a dream and a vision for the kind of educational system Oregon wants, and then setting a progress plan for five to ten years ahead as a system. Community Colleges have to stop responding to funding decreases and instead set goals and directions, talk to the Governor and legislators and insist that they fund community colleges appropriately. Oregon's position at 41st in the nation in terms of supporting higher education is unacceptable.

These **business items** were also unanimously approved:

- Minutes
- Financial report
- RFP for legal services
- Head Start corrections plan for self assessment
- Consideration of eliminating capital Construction fund

The following **personnel considerations** outlining activity for the month of March 2007 were presented:

NEW EMPLOYEES:

Faculty

Andrew Wong	Instructor – Business Management	Business Management/Administration	MBA Business Administration	9/13/07
Anna Johnson	Faculty Librarian	Library & Learning Resource Center	MLS Library & Information Science	7/1/07

Support

Jefferson Potts	Patrol Person	Public Safety		3/29/07
Keodouangchai Ming Sok	Student Services Specialist	Admissions, Registration and Records		3/26/07
Katrina McNeal	Administrative Assistant	Business, CIS, Integrated Media		3/8/07
Lawrence Gilius	Learning Assistance Coordinator (one-year interim)	LLRC/LAC		3/5/07

CURRENT SEPARATIONS:

Kyla Cadieux	Family Support Specialist	CDFS		3/2/07
Inna Grigorov	Workforce Connections Program Assistant	Workforce Connections		3/16/07
Jodi Larsen	Administrative Assistant	Foundation		3/16/07
Corey Pressman	Instructor – Sociology – Anthropology	Social Science		3/24/07
Sandra Van Meter	Teacher/Home Visitor	CDFS		3/21/07

There will be a Budget Committee meeting April 18, 2007 at 6:00 p.m. in the MHCC Board Room. The next regular meeting of the Board is scheduled for 6:00 p.m. on May 9, 2007, in the MHCC Board Room.