

Higher Education Coordinating Commission

TERRY CROSS
Chair

SANDY ROWE
Vice-Chair

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ADAMS

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AISLYN MATIAS

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ROJAS-GALVÁN

EMILY SIMNITT

MOTUTAMA
SIPELII

Executive Director
BEN CANNON

Thursday, May 11, 2023
9:02 am – 1:33 pm

FULLY REMOTE MEETING

MEETING MINUTES:

Members Present: Terry Cross, Chair; Sandy Rowe, Vice Chair; Greg Hamann, Commissioner; Aislyn Matias, Commissioner; Fernando Rojas-Galván, Commissioner; Emily Simnitt, Commissioner; Richard Devlin, Commissioner; Arnel Fajardo, Commissioner; Rukaiyah Adams, Commissioner; Natalie Arnot, Commissioner; Motutama Sipelii, Commissioner; Helen Edwards, Commissioner

Members Excused: Vanessa Becker, Commissioner

Staff: Ben Cannon, Executive Director; Kyle Thomas, Legislative Affairs Director; Donna Lewelling, Director, Office of Community Colleges and Workforce Development; Veronica Dujon, Director, Academic Policy and Authorization; Shalee Hodgson, Policy Advisory, Office of Community Colleges and Workforce Development; Guthrie Stafford, Commission Administrator

Invited Guests: Melissa Goff, Governor's Office; Denise Callahan, Ford Family Foundation; Amy Hofer, Linn-Benton Community College; Susan Jeffords, Portland State University, Co-Chair of HECC Transfer Council; Teresa Rivenes, Umpqua Community College, Co-Chair of HECC Transfer Council

Standing Business

1.0 Preliminary and Organizational Business

The meeting came to order at 9:02am.

1.1 Roll Call, Opening Remarks, and Agenda Review

Commission Administrator Guthrie Stafford called roll.

Chair Cross shared opening remarks, reviewed the agenda, and discussed his experience at the recent HECC hosted Tribal Student Support Network event.

1.2 ACTION ITEM: Approve April Full HECC meeting minutes

MOTION: Commissioner Devlin moved, and Commissioner Hamann seconded. The motion was carried unanimously.

2.0 Executive Director Report

Ben Cannon presented a report on the HECC's business over the past month, touching upon the Tribal Student Support Network event, HECC Ways and Means testimony, business of the prior days Funding and Achievement Subcommittee, Future Ready

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Oregon Healthcare Consortia and grant distribution updates related to workforce development, and HECC’s role in the Governor’s housing production agenda.

Commissioner Matias asked for more details on the HECCs role as it relates to housing insecure and houseless college students. Ben Cannon responded that the current authority and directive of the agency is limited, but that the HECC continues to highlight the issue to the legislature and advocate for its resolution.

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2.2 Tribal Student Support Network Event Report

Chair Cross further discussed the Tribal Student Support Network event, and his appreciation for the HECC DEI staff for organizing and senior staff for being involved. Chair Cross commented on the collaboration of the attending Tribes in relations building and work to support Tribal students.

Ben Cannon thanked Chair Cross for his time and leadership in connection with the event.

2.1 HECC Monthly Budget Update ***ITEM TAKEN OUT OF ORDER***

Ben Cannon commented on agenda item 2.1 – HECC monthly budget update.

2.3 Other Updates

Ben Cannon discussed planning for terming out Commissioners and filling of vacant roles by the next round of Senate confirmations in September 2023.

Ben Cannon shared an update on his recent attendance as a Commissioner at the Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education (WICHE) Spring meeting in Phoenix, Arizona. He reported that the focus of conversation at the event was about the declining public perception of the value of higher education and possibilities to respond to this trend.

Chair Cross thanked Ben Cannon for his report and commented on his experience as a WICHE intern when he was a student.

3.0 Governor’s Office Report

Melissa Goff presented a Governor’s Office report, touching upon balancing workforce development and long-term career readiness and democratic citizenship as goals for higher education. Melissa Goff thanked Rudyane Rivera-Lindstrom for her influence as HECC’s DEI Director, and thanked Chair Cross for his work engaging Oregon’s Tribes with the HECC’s work and development of the Oregon Tribal Student Grant. Melissa Goff discussed her meeting with Dana Richardson, Director of Oregon Council of Presidents. Melissa discussed her work with promoting K-12 education workforce and pending legislation on the topic. Melissa Goff discussed housing for students.

Chair Cross thanked Melissa Goff for her report.

Commissioner Devlin asked about the Governor’s request for the Oregon Opportunity Grant and how it differs from the recommendation of the Ways and Means Co-Chairs. Melissa Goff responded as to the Governor’s requested funding levels.

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4.0 Invited Testimony and Discussion

Denise Callahan presented on her work with the Ford Family Foundation providing scholarships and support for first generation, high need, rural, and underrepresented college students. Denise Callahan discussed the long-term benefits of quality higher education to rural and low-income communities in breaking the cycle of poverty.

Vice Chair Rowe commented on the success of the foundation's work and how to widen the impacts on rural communities. Vice Chair Rowe asked Denise Callahan to discuss the ideal outcomes that could be derived by bridging the enrollment gaps in rural communities.

Denise Callahan responded that the rural enrollment gap is growing, and that a big step would be to ensure rural high schools have the same programmatic offerings as urban counterparts. Denise Callahan discussed the limitations of funding at the two to four year higher education level, and the lack systems in Oregon to allow for smooth pathways from high school through a bachelor's degree.

Commissioner Hamann asked Denise Callahan to elaborate the Foundation's focus on changing systems of education. Denise responded that all students benefit from building campuses that accommodate the highest need students.

Commissioner Edwards asked about how we can increase students' feeling that someone believes in them and their ability to complete higher education. Denise Callahan responded that institutions are largely responsible for this, and that a high degree of involvement and engagement in students' pathways is required.

Commissioner Edwards commented on how Covid-19 amplified all these problems of student disconnection and Denise Callahan responded that she agreed, and mental health has become one of the primary needs barring students from academic success.

Commissioner Edwards commented on the role of technology in addressing some of these issues. Denise Callahan responded that the Ford Family Foundation uses technology to predict risk factors for student disengagement and where interventions can be the most influential.

Chair Cross asked Denise Callahan if the Ford Family Foundation is publishing their work. Denise responded that the Foundation has historically been quiet, but that a new strategic plan calls for more research and publishing on rural and transfer pathways in Oregon. Chair Cross commented on the HECC's role in convening partners to make progress on smoothing pathways, as well as his own experience with feelings of not belonging as undergraduate student, and the importance of addressing these feelings.

5.0 Public Testimony

No public testimony.

6.0 Community College Program Approvals

6.1 **CONSENT ITEM:** Columbia Gorge Community College - Medical Assisting, CCo

6.2 **CONSENT ITEM:** Columbia Gorge Community College - Professional Small Uncrewed Aircraft Systems, CC

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6.3 **CONSENT ITEM:** Linn-Benton Community College - AAS Surgical Technology, AAS

6.4 **CONSENT ITEM:** Rogue Community College - Human Services, AAS

ACTION ITEM: Approve consent items 6.1-6.4.

MOTION: Commissioner Devlin moved approval and Commissioner Rojas-Galvan seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

7.0 University Program Approvals

7.1 **CONSENT ITEM:** UO BA/BS in Popular Music

7.2 **CONSENT ITEM:** UO BS in Cybersecurity

ACTION ITEM: Approve consent items 7.1-7.2.

MOTION: Commissioner Matias moved approval and Commissioner Rowe seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

The meeting recessed for a break at 10:25am.

Break

The meeting reconvened at 10:40am.

8.0 Legislative Update

Kyle Thomas presented an update on legislative progress and details around expected budgetary breakdowns and State revenue forecast. Kyle Thomas shared updates on the expected continuation and level of the Oregon Tribal Student Grant, level of the Oregon Opportunity Grant. Kyle Thomas discussed the importance of workforce development to the legislative agenda and how the HECC can respond to this. Kyle Thomas addressed the Senate's inability to meet a quorum for the last nine days, and possible outcomes of the walkout as it relates to compressing the legislative agenda.

Commissioner Devlin asked about the expectations for HECC budget adoption at current service level and whether grant programs will be carve outs. Commissioner Devlin commented the backlog of Ways and Means review of policy bills, and the challenges of having so many new members in the legislature and new presiding officers during the close of the session.

8.1 HECC Ways and Means Testimony Informational Summary

Ben Cannon presented a summary of the HECC's testimony before the Joint Ways and Means Subcommittee on Education.

Commissioner Devlin asked about the presentation of the level of support per student per FTE and communication issues arising from aggregating support per FTE for Community Colleges and Universities. Ben Cannon responded that the HECC has been working with national data reporting bodies to disaggregate the data but cautioned that even the disaggregated sector by sector data needs careful handling to avoid misinterpretation.

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Chair Cross asked about the monthly budget report and how this relates to the data presented to Ways and Means. Ben Cannon responded that most of the focus of the monthly budget update is on the agency's budget, rather than pass through funds. Chair Cross asked that the agency explore providing alternative presentations of the HECC's pass through funding for the monthly budget updates.

Ben Cannon continued presenting a summary of the Ways and Means testimony. Ben acknowledged the contributions of HECC staff and leadership team to the development of the presentation.

Chair Cross asked that the presentation be turned into an onboarding tool for new commissioners. Ben Cannon noted that these slides were presented in a simplified report that was published in the last newsletter.

The meeting recessed at 11:35am

Lunch

The meeting reconvened at 12:30pm.

Strategic Implementation

9.0 Strategic Activity One: Reporting

9.1 ACTION ITEM: Open Education Report (ORS 348.756)

Shalee Hodgson and Amy Hofer presented on the report for adoption.

Commissioner Devlin asked about details for cost transparency and data presentation for faculty reporting of academic materials. Amy Hofer responded.

Commissioner Simnitt commented on the difficulty of faculty reporting.

MOTION: Commissioner Simnitt moved approval and Commissioner Devlin seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

10.0 Strategic Activity Three: Pathways

10.1 Major Transfer Map (MTM) administrative rules informational report

Donna Lewelling presented on the development of Major Transfer Maps.

Veronica Dujon presented on the development of Major Transfer Maps.

Ben Cannon discussed the differences of opinion about how to proceed present between Transfer Council members, and the unlikeliness of a consensus Transfer Council recommendation to the Commission at the June Full HECC meeting when proposed Major Transfer Map administrative rules are considered for adoption. Ben addressed the authority and mandate vested in HECC by the law to complete the development of Major Transfer Maps.

Commissioner Rowe discussed the length of the process given that the Major Transfer Map development has been ongoing since enacted by law in 2017.

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Chair Cross said that the HECC's goal is to meet the needs of all Oregonians as well as to serve institutions, and that this is an area of potential conflict due to a hard but necessary shift to a longstanding culture of decision-making delegation as to transfer issues.

10.2 Major Transfer Map (MTM) panel discussion

Teresa Rivenes discussed the HECC Transfer Council's work developing Major Transfer Maps, touching upon the position and role of the community college sector.

Susan Jeffords discussed the HECC Transfer Council's work developing Major Transfer Maps, touching upon the position and role of the public university sector, and addressed outstanding concerns around variance and final authority for decision making. Susan Jeffords discussed an example of meaningful variance at PSU in biology transfer pathways that allow statistics courses to substitute for calculus, expanding access to baccalaureate completion for first generation and underrepresented student groups. Susan Jeffords discussed concerns about infringement on faculty autonomy over curriculum development.

Chair Cross asked about proposed language to address these concerns while still meeting the needs of students. Susan Jeffords responded that the Provost's Council has draft language that it plans to present to the Transfer Council at the next meeting and the Commission in June. Chair Cross commented that the variance issue seems more solvable than the issue of final transfer pathway authority and discussed the need to arrive at a compromise for the benefit of students. Susan Jeffords responded and thanked Chair Cross for his discussion of shared leadership.

11.0 **Adjourned at 1:33pm.**

Terry Cross, Chair

Guthrie Stafford, Commission Administrator