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TODD JONES

ADELE McAFEE

JAYESH PALSHIKAR

JARED PRUCH

Non-Voting Members
MARY GREUSEL

Commission Staff
CARIE BAUER
OregonServes Director

MADELINE SEGHERS
*AmeriCorps Program
Administrator*

BRITTANY MELZER,
Board Administrator

Technical Advisor
JULIA STEINBERGER
OWI Interim Director

OregonServes Commission

Quarterly Meeting

January 28th, 2022
10:00AM-1:00PM

[Video Call Link](#)

MEETING MINUTES:

Members Present via teleconference: Chair Nathan Rix, Vice-chair Elias Villegas, Sierra Barnes, Jorge Cruz, Heidi Edwards, Adele McAfee, Jaren Pruch, Jayesh Palshikar, Mary Greusel, Daniel Altamirano Hernandez

Guests Present via teleconference: Carmen Brewton Denison, Rudyane Rivera-Lindstrom,
Members Excused: Greg Carpinello, Todd Jones, Shenika Cumberbatch

Standing Business

1.0 Preliminary and Organizational Business

1.1 Chair Rix called the meeting to order at 10:02 AM. Members recognized the traditional lands they joined from during Land Acknowledgement Opening.

1.2 Opening Remarks were shared, the Board Administrator confirmed quorum, and the agenda was reviewed.

1.3 The partner testimony guests were introduced to the Board, which was Carmen Brewton Denison, Executive Director of Campus Compact of Oregon, and Rudyane Rivera-Lindstrom, Director of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion at the Higher Education

1.4 Coordinating Commission (HECC).

1.5 No commission member announcements were made.

ACTION ITEM: Approve December 3 Commission Meeting Minutes.

Motion: Chair Rix called for a motion to approve the December 3, 2021 meeting minutes as presented in agenda item 1.5. Vice-chair Elias Villegas moved to adopt the motion, and Commissioner Jayesh Palshikar seconded. Chair Rix called for a voice vote. The motion was approved unanimously.

2.0 Public Comment

None

3.0 OregonServes Director Report

3.1 Operations, Legislative & Other Updates

Director Bauer introduced Madeline Seghers who has been hired by the Office of Workforce Investments as the OregonServes Program Officer.

The Commission received an American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) allocation of \$265,000 from AmeriCorps that will need to be spent within three years. The ARPA allocation comes with a 1:1 required funding match. Previously, the board approved recommendations for usage of any incoming emergency relief funding. Priority usage of the funding would be to

increase Commission capacity and staffing. Following these recommendations, Director Bauer shared plans to seek match through an e-board hearing, and to seek staffing for 2-3 new positions, including a Fiscal and Grants Compliance Officer position, and Volunteer and Disaster Services Coordinators. Director Bauer also updated the Commission with plans to reclassify the second open Program Officer position into a Training and Outreach Coordinator Position, and to increase capacity through usage of an Encore Fellow, provided by the state association, America's Service Commissions (ASC). A Policy Option Package (POP) will be written to ask for the Fiscal and Grants Compliance Officer and Volunteer and Disaster Services Coordinator positions to become permanent.

The Build Back Better Bill discussion is ramping back up after a short break over the holidays. This would be a landmark investment in increasing the services that AmeriCorps provides. This legislation directly addresses barriers to service. This bill has been stalled but the part of the bill that has widespread support is funding for the AmeriCorps flagship program, Civilian Climate Corps (CCC). Director Bauer shared updates about the work that the national Climate Action Corps Workgroup is doing, including newly released resources. Partnerships will hopefully develop out of this work to leverage Oregon programs to help combat climate change. This work will be funded through the climate action piece of the Build Back Better package.

4.0 OWI Director Report

4.1 HECC & OWI News & Updates

OWI Interim Director Steinberger shared that four new staff members have been hired with OWI to fill various support and program roles within the office. The short legislative session begins in February. Future Ready Oregon (the Governor's workforce proposal) will have a hearing with the Senate Labor and Business Committee on February 3rd. It's unusual for such a large package to be brought to a short session, so the process will be different than usual. OWI is already preparing for the 2023 legislative session. February 14th is the next deadline for Policy Option Package (POPs) submission. The OregonServes Commission POPs and Legislative Concept ideas were submitted in January. There was one on Housing and Emergency Assistance for National Service, In-state tuition for National Service, and OregonServes Capacity and Community Resilience as well as the list of additional areas that are of interest to the Commission.

Invited Testimony / Discussion

5.0 Partner Presentations

5.1 HB2590 & Equity Lens Updates

Rudyane Rivera-Lindstrom, the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion manager at the HECC, shared the historical context of the HECC Equity Lens, and the work that went into developing the current version. The current version addresses achievement gaps and provides guidance on how to operationalize equity within the work at the HECC. It was rewritten to align it with HECCs strategic roadmap. It also incorporates Governor Brown's

State of Oregon Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Action Plan. Director Rivera-Lindstrom described the new plan as both a tool and a stance for the office.

The Student Success Act of 2017 addressed disparities in K-12 schooling and allowed for hearing from groups in classrooms all over the state. HB 2590 is an attempt to build off the cultural competency work that was done in 2017. It is essentially a student task force bill for Higher Education. The goal is to travel around the state to hear from institutions and organizations about what is really going on, and what issues need to be addressed from an equity standpoint. This is an opportunity to hear from students, instructors, and families. She shared that as opportunities arise for engagement and as more resources are developed they will be shared with the Commission.

5.2 Current Community Organization Experiences & Impacts

Carmen Brewton Denison, the Executive Director of Campus Compact of Oregon (CCO), discussed the impacts to students of COVID-19, including elder loss, childcare issues, gang and gun violence amongst youth and students, loss of income, and extended effects from illness. Director Brewton Denison also elaborated on effects of dominant culture on nonprofit organizations, the issues of citizenship when addressing barriers to student success, and the hardships faced by LGBTQ+ communities when accessing services. Director Brewton Denison described how CCO is working directly with other community based organizations to improve outcomes for their participants, and asked the Commission to continue to push for increasing the AmeriCorps living allowance, which would further enable members to serve within their own communities, and to prioritize community engagement and feedback when leading work.

Standing Reports

6.0 Partner & Committee Reports

6.1 AmeriCorps West Region

Mary Greusel, AmeriCorps Senior Portfolio Manager, West Region, Office of Regional Operations, shared that Michael Smith was confirmed as the new CEO of AmeriCorps. Additional updates included notice of new funding opportunities. AmeriCorps Seniors grant applications are due February 3rd. The AmeriCorps State and National Tribal grants process is now open. AmeriCorps VISTA applications are due in March.

6.2 OregonServes AmeriCorps Program

Director Bauer shared that the AmeriCorps Grantee and Member Anti-Racism Training Series, conducted by Engage to Change, will once again be held virtually, and extended an invitation to attend to Commission members.

The Life After AmeriCorps programming is being developed right now to help members leverage their experiences after exiting their service year.

The Request for Applications for AmeriCorps Formula Funds is being developed and will be released in March for an April due date.

6.3 Public Policy Committee

Chair Barnes shared that the Public Policy Committee is working on long-term planning with a focus on preparing for the 2023 Oregon Legislative Session. The committee submitted legislative concepts and Policy Option Packages (POPs) for the 2023 session, with an emphasis on combatting barriers to recruitment, such as high housing costs and low living allowance. While the HECC Executive Team is selecting their priority POPs the committee plans to focus on stakeholder engagement.

6.4 Equity Framework Development Team

Chair McAfee shared that they are still working with Engage to Change to facilitate operationalizing the equity efforts within the Commission's work. The focus now is on increasing membership diversity.

6.5 ASC Youth Commissioner Cohort

Sierra Barnes is a member of the ASC Youth Commissioner Cohort and presented the update. Sierra reiterated that they're waiting for the Civilian Climate Corps legislation to pass. The Cohort also has been doing market research to prepare state commissions for the potential large influx of AmeriCorps members if the Build Back Better Act passes.

Strategic Implementation

7.0 Oregon 2022-24 State Service Plan

7.1 HECC Roadmap & ORS Crosswalk Overview

Director Bauer presented on the State Service Plan, highlighting the alignment of the plan with the HECC Roadmap and OregonServes Oregon Revised Statutes (ORS).

7.2 Break-Out Discussions: Targeted Strategies & Priority Setting

Board members and staff were separated into breakout rooms to identify or give feedback on targeted strategies to meet each of the goals in the state service plan.

Other Business

8.0 Other Business and Next Steps

8.1 Reminder of the next OregonServes Commission meeting set for April 29th, 2022.

8.2 No additional agenda requests were made.

Chair Rix adjourned meeting at 1:00PM.