

OPAS Steering Meeting #11 September 12, 2006

Attendees: Jo Oshiro (OUS), Bruce Schafer (OUS), Scott Huff (PCC), Michal Young (UO), Dick Knight (Saturday Academy), Larry Flick (OSU), Di Saunders (UO)

Summary

Fall Workshop Venue planning (Jo)

- OMSI has offered us the use of the Auditorium on Friday November 17, 2006, all day. Use of OMSI's caterer (mandatory) would cost about \$1841.40, including the mandatory 20% gratuity.
- MESA at PSU has offered to host at PSU so that we may use the internal rate. Jo will continue to investigate. Hoffman Hall was suggested.
- The Capital Center is another possibility, but the facility is in flux and there may no longer be furniture in some rooms.
- All committee members present were amenable to a Friday, November 17 date. Using PSU may offer additional date alternatives.

Fall Workshop Issues:

- Strategies – time to choose amongst our beloved children. Take these offline and see how they fit. We need to decide what we are not going to do – we don't have a strategy yet because we have too many (Bruce). *Staff will draft a strawpaper matrix/rating system with weights, scores, and ranks taking into account the points below. The document will be distributed to the steering committee and committee chairs in advance of the October 5 meeting, at which the committee chairs meeting will review and hopefully validate that document.*
 - (Di) Rating matrix – criteria laid out, strategies rated with such things as short vs. long-term. (Dick) Impact should include effecting a change in the workforce, our ultimate goal.
 - (Michal) PERTT chart the strategies – which are foundational/primary?
 - Early success
 - Critical Dependencies
 - (Dick) OPAS II - a student-centric look: What are the top obstacles to getting to behave in a way that would solve the OPAS problem? Align strategies with obstacles, obstacles with original OPAS goals (Di)
 - Perception of opportunity – students not engaged by careers
 - Perception of the work – not seen as a helping profession
 - Early academic engagement and persistence
 - College transition
 - Affordability
 - Ongoing accessibility to articulated programs

- (Dick) After the workshop, we want to produce tools or a model that allows us to shift the discussion, tools that energize the committee and enhance credibility that in various different forums.
- How can we collaborate to get more resources from NSF, USDE, feds, federal setasides, foundations
- Other issues as nominated by the Committee Chairs or others in the next few weeks.

Subcommittee Status Reports (Jo):

- **Alignment & Coordination System-Wide (ACSW) / Career (Degree) Pathways (CPTH):** Newly combined under chairs Susan Boyanovsky and Scott Giltz, the first joint meeting will be held October 25 at the Capital Center. ACSW had a data gathering project underway that is expected to pick up speed now that the school year has started.
- **Alignment & Coordination Curricular and Co-Curricular (ACCC):** Chaired by Dick Knight, this committee is currently acting as a steering committee for the NOISE project funded by ETIC and implemented by OMSI. This Network of Informal STEM Educators will be kicked off by an all-day event at OMSI on February 5, 2007. Amanda Thomas at OMSI (AThomas@omsi.edu) is coordinating, and is currently working on developing a solid list of potential participants for targeted recruitment. Please note that the term “co-curricular” is fairly unusual; most of these activities usually fall under the OST (Out of School Time) umbrella. Mary Beth Horton of the BEC joined this committee as a NOISE partner, and has offered valuable connections for other committees as well.
- **Diversity (DIVR):** Chaired by Eda Davis-Butts, this committee is drafting its best practices recommendations and recruiting additional members. Use of the wiki electronic collaboration tool is slowly increasing as Jo learns more about user-friendly configuration. Some discussions here on possible ways to nurture evangelists have sparked some conversations with the BEC. The next meeting is September 14.
- **Instructional Professional Development (IPD):** Although this committee is on hiatus after the retirement of its chair, Jo recently emailed its members to update them on various OPAS activities. Larry Flick has graciously agreed to represent this committee’s interests at the committee chairs meeting on October 5. One potential project left on hold here was Kent Foster’s offer to mediate contacts for a survey of OPAS-like activity in other states; this may be taken up again as staff time becomes available.
- **Marketing Engineering and Applied Science Careers (MKTC):** Chaired by Di Saunders, this committee has presented to the Steering Committee a list of potential efforts/projects, which the steering committee elected to table until during or after the fall workshop. The next meeting is September 20.
- **Standards, Courses, and Curricula (SCC):** Chaired by Sean Gallagher, this committee will hear a report on a “good conversation” between Sean and Bill Becker, who is a panel member of the State Standards Assessment and Content

Panel for Science (SACPS) at its next meeting on September 20. This committee is also making sporadic use of its wiki for discussion.

- **Student Success: Access, Motivation, Retention:** Chair Eileen Boerger will meet with Mary Beth Horton of BEC and Jo Oshiro on September 22, pursuant to the committee's interest in "making it easy for Oregon's small and medium sized businesses to say 'YES!'" to helping the OPAS effort. As part of this, Jo is investigating guidelines to support teachers using classroom STEM volunteers, classroom STEM guest speakers, mentors, and job shadowees and has made connections with Susan Shugarman of OHSU, Pacific University, and Stephanie Lambert of BEC who have a similar stake in that information.
 - (Dick) We should be sure that the educators' input is solicited on any such documents, and include such topics as –
 - How do you get started as a classroom volunteer/ mentor/ job shadowee?
 - How do you behave?
 - What are the best pedagogical methods?
 - (Bruce/Larry) Investigate the existence of GK12 best practices for classroom guest speakers, possibly at the goengineering website.
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New Discussion Points:

- (Dick) Now that we are about to go into a legislative session, is there anything ETIC wants from us that forwards their legislative agenda?
 - Bruce will chew on that offline.
 - Dick will help Di in preparing some legislative outreach materials for OPAS and ETIC.

Next Meeting: Wednesday, October 11, 3:30 – 5:00. Aim for an interesting agenda prepared in advance to entice those who haven't participated recently.

Discussion Details:

Larry: [Re: rating matrix/ obstacles] highlights for me trying to decide what the problem is.

Di: are Dick's obstacles aligned with our original goals?

Bruce: Work on matrix with/before/ after committee chairs meeting?

Dick: Assessment or validation by that group is important. Strawman from staff approach. One worry: Total impact column. Implies addressing obstacles and goals. Could have impact as "projected effect on the future Oregon workforce" rather than just plain numbers of kids. The vision is nice, but we really want to change the workforce.

Di: Elapsed time – is this a measure of short-term win vs. long-term win?

Bruce: yes. General notion of how quickly do you see the results?

Dick: For a table, go ahead and add up points and rank order.

Di: Jo, I will not be at that meeting, please send me an advance copy.

JO: send out strawman in advance to steering plus committee chairs.

Dick: Guidelines for classroom volunteers, get pedagogical input

- Get started
- How do you behave
- Best pedagogical methods

Larry: NSF has invested a bunch of money in GK12, putting graduate students into the classroom. The way in which these people get used can be quite varied. He worked on a guidelines book when he was up at Hanford. Teacher is key- has got to want it and use it. Guidelines are not sufficient.

Bruce: Might there be some best practice to be learned from GK12 programs around the country.

Larry: Go check out goengineering website, accumulating GK12 products/activity. (JO do this)

Bruce: one of his big concerns about volunteerism, some programs seem really hard to scale, some look reasonable. Doesn't really understand why.

Next Meeting: Wednesday, October 11 – Monday the 9th armtwist laggards. Try to be prepared with an interesting agenda in advance.

New subjects:

Dick: Preparing to go into a legislative session. Is there anything ETIC wants from us that forwards their legislative agenda?

Bruce: I think I need to sleep on the question of how can OPAS help ETIC or vice-versa.

Di: We will be preparing some legislative outreach materials for OPAS and ETIC.

Dick's help would be useful as well.

Dick: anything I can do.