

OPAS Steering Committee #14
Virtual Meeting on Snow Day, January 16, 2007

Attendees: Jo Oshiro, Bruce Schafer, Dick Knight, Roger Rennekamp, Ben Manny, Tom Thompson, Di Saunders, Michal Young, Susan Boyanovsky, Don Domes, Eileen Boerger

Not expected: Scott Huff, Eda Davis-Butts

Italics denote events and information since the meeting.

Introductions and Opening Remarks

The committee welcomed new member Tom Thompson, Industry and Engineering Systems Specialist at ODE, who replaces Ginger Redlinger; today is his first day.

Overview of New Workgroups

Web support for the new workgroups is under construction at <http://opas.ous.edu//Workgroups2007/index.html>, and is accessible from the OPAS homepage at <http://opas.ous.edu//> via the “[Workgroups07]” link at the mid-upper right. New listservs will be created shortly.

Motivate – Chairs Ben Manny and Eileen Boerger

Eileen and Ben, who turn out to both be UT Austin alums of the same era and major, have been meeting. They plan a face-to-face kickoff meeting (*Thursday, March 1, 8:00 – 1:00, PSU’s Fariborz Maseeh Engineering Building.*) They are honing their plans to pick a few things and get them done in 2007. Their approach involves tapping into Oregon’s many smaller companies, and using those resources to amplify existing programs. They have developed a conceptual model of the phases of motivation which may help structure their plans and tasks. These phases are awareness; encounter; engagement; and commitment. *As of February 1, members are Don Domes, Roger Rennekamp, Kathryn Schwarz, David Coronado, Mary Beth Horton, Sue Ann Bottoms (new to OPAS, from SMILE) and Di Saunders. Additional recruiting is in progress. Ben and Eileen have come up with a two-tiered model of participation – a core team able to commit to attending meetings and devoting about a day a month to the effort, and an advisory team who can commit to reading meeting notes and responding to specific requests for short-term tasks such as document review, connections to resources, etc.*

Prepare – Chairs Dick Knight and Sean Gallagher

Dick and Sean have gotten together virtually, reviewed the workshop notes and recommendations and achieved some level of comfort with those. The first round of invitations has gone out to those persons attending the Workshop who voted for the Prepare Strategy and/or participated in the afternoon breakout session. Larry Flick has joined this workgroup. *Additional members are Tom Thompson, Chris Steiner (new to OPAS, from the Hillsboro School District, Jay Bockelman, Walt Mayberry, Michal Young, Steve Day, and Bill Becker. More recruiting is in progress. Dick and Sean liked the two-tier participation model proposed by Ben and Eileen, given that we can find an adequately large core team.*

Prepare Meetings will be on the third Tuesday of the month from 3:30 – 5:00; the first meeting will be February 20.

Dick and Sean have been reviewing research around high school and college preparation, and thinking about ways to raise the level of data in the discussion. Sean notes that we have a unique opportunity to influence outcomes at the state level, because of the phasing in of requirements for graduation: an additional year of science over the next two years, and an additional year of math over the next four. One way to take advantage of this opportunity is to intelligently inject true academic math and science content into applied courses, most likely now taught under at PTE umbrella. We believe this is happening in various places around the state already, but we could raise the visibility and portability of those efforts, and help validate their content and/or pedagogy.

Succeed Strategy – Chair Eda Davis-Butts

Jo reports for Eda: The Succeed Strategy invitation was the first to go out, and we thank Eda for the draft which was used to develop the others. Wendy Powless has joined the group *as have Jill Tucker (new to OPAS, from the Lemelson Foundation), Sue Peters of MESA, and Kathryn Schwartz. More recruiting is in progress, and the first meeting will be scheduled shortly.*

Pathways – Chairs Susan Boyanovsky & Scott Giltz

The Pathways Workgroup is leveraging an initiative already underway, the statewide articulation agreements on Manufacturing Engineering Technology between OIT and several community colleges. The articulation agreement is complete, both vertically and horizontally. HS students can earn CC/OIT credit by Project Lead the Way (PLTW) courses or equivalents.

The committee is making a poster-format advising guide to lay out the pathway from stem to stern. We are paying special attention to documenting transition points:

- From HS Diploma/GED to Post-secondary or employment
- From Community College/AA/ transfer/ to University or employment
- From BS to MS or employment
- From MS to PhD or employment

Each transition point will have job descriptions, labor market info (a rating scale for wages/salary (similar to restaurant stars), representative employers), and knowledge and skill sets. We have been working with employers and the Oregon Employment office to include the correct set of jobs/occupations in the Pathway. We are hoping to have a draft by Monday, January 22.

This work greatly interested the committee; the discussion covered these points:

- The Career Pathways work is some alignment, but a lot more articulation of what is already in place – analogous to an ISO Certification, it involves more documenting of what is currently being done than changing it.
 - Show that technical degrees are not terminal – that is, there is somewhere to go with an AA degree in Manufacturing Engineering Technology that does not involve starting over.
- Will employers recognize a difference between Manufacturing Engineering and Manufacturing Engineering Technology? (One algebra-based, the other calc-based?)

- This work is very badly needed; Dick Knight would like to see something by spring. His concern: that what we tell students is in line with how employers behave, so this work must extend to customer (i.e., employers).
- Part of the work involves checking with employers about what occupations (the SOC codes used to track occupational data) companies are hiring with which qualifications; as part of that Bruce sent on a request for information from Jeld-Wen and Gunderson, both of whom have members on ETIC.
 - Microsoft is also a big fan of OIT grads; they might be another source to tap for this.
- Don Domes will work on coordinating with SuperQuest teacher training to take advantage of this work.
- Susan Boyanovsky notes that with the reauthorization of the Perkins bill, there are new accountability measures. One new performance measure is technical skill attainment. She wants to start working on at least the outcome level for technical skill attainment, which will require additional input from technical people, not just educators.
- The Chancellor's Office Communications Department working on this; Di Saunders noted that her group is there to be of service as needed – to reach out to constituent groups, develop materials, etc.

OPAS Funding

Policy Option Package – There is ambiguity regarding funding for the RFP we want to issue. The Governor's budget did not include anything explicit for this, although the Chancellor has an idea for allocating \$500K of which \$100K is for staffing. That idea is contingent on ETIC approval and legislative action also. *ETIC elected not to make a decision at the time of their most recent meeting, January 26.*

Federal and foundation funding – Do workgroup chairs have ideas for raising funding within groups?

- Susan Boyanovsky: The Pathways Workgroup is still figuring out what we want to do and what it takes to do it. How do we leverage existing resources such as state funds, Perkins funds, and small grants?
- Dick Knight's Prepare Workgroup may want to raise funds, but not necessarily directly through OPAS. May be the best way to channel that funding access is through an existing organization like SMILE, Larry, MESA – do the proposals through them; they have the expertise.
- Bruce Schafer notes that OPAS might be the umbrella for a proposal. But by raising the idea in the workgroups, light bulbs might go on and go back to members' organizations; two or more workgroup members can say we can really stand out in this by working together. OPAS could help develop those; could have endorsement/strengthen "this proposal developed according to a strategy developed by a statewide group".
- Bruce Schafer and Ben Manny: Not all resources are monetary. Workgroups might want to think about structure around what makes sense around smaller, medium, large companies.

- Don Domes looked at, but did not submit, an ISEF grant, whose RFP was mentioned in the last steering committee meeting, because of the constraints they had were not a good fit for SuperQuest.
- OPAS will keep passing around those grant opportunities, and will remain open to writing endorsement letters. Timing can be a problem – the more lead time the better. Perhaps we can tap into Larry Flick’s group or expertise. *(Jo notes that she emailed Larry about this; they don’t have a formal search program but try to stay aware amongst themselves and take advantage of university-wide resources. Perhaps at some point OPAS should investigate how those larger searches work, and if we can get on their notify lists)*

Other activity of interest

OMSI

- has reiterated support for OPAS – facilities, membership, tickets. *(We have just asked for some tickets or swag for the Pre-Engineering Conference for MESA Students and Families on April 14 at PSU.)*
- will host the NOISE (Network of Informal STEM Educators) kick-off conference on February 5. There are still openings available; contact Dick Knight or Jo Oshiro. *(This conference had about 90 attendees and was well-received, according to evaluations collected at the event.)*

PR/Communication Notebook – OPAS Retrospective

Jo is collecting a small group of documents suitable for a variety of PR and communications tasks to make them available for download to OPAS members who might need a succinct review of OPAS Initiative mission, history, needs, data, organization and activity for such tasks as recruiting new members, lobbying decision-makers, or presentations to professional organizations. Steering committee suggestions:

- Put a roster in that document
- Cover the new workgroups – either change “retrospective” to a new name or add a new document for the 2007 outlook.

Other business

There is a report out for Senate Bill 364; Debra Barnes working with Senator looking for best venue to issue this report. Colleen Mileham, ODE has it; we need to be very sensitive about the strategic use of this document. We will contact her and ask what she feels comfortable releasing to OPAS as a group.

Ron Dexter is running a one hour college credit class at Owen Sabin skills center – specifically about how to work with the legislature. Ron was successful in getting the study bill through last session. Don Domes will take it and report back. Cost is \$300-\$400.

There is ongoing interest in looking at the new designation “applied baccalaureate degree”, distance education, how to promote 2+2.

The Oregon Skill Sets diagram organizes the career related focus areas for which skill sets need to be refined - http://web1.ode.state.or.us/teachlearn/subjects/oregonskillsets/oss_colorchart.pdf

- step 1: define career focus areas (Ron Dodge wants input on engineering areas)
- step 2: define knowledge and skills for those career focus areas

Issue in a nutshell: within engineering, many specialty areas. In Oregon, for which specialty areas do we want to spell out knowledge and skill sets? Especially worried about what is missing. For some areas, we don't have occupations. Susan Boyanovsky will get Jo a list to send out; Jo will connect to Ron Dodge. *(Jo has talked to Ron Dodge, mostly about where "Software Engineering" fits in to the career clusters which organize the skill sets. Ron has sat in on several CS Taskforce meetings but not brought this particular issue to their attention. Because he wants a mix of academic and industry input, Jo encouraged him to bring it to their attention.)*

Di Saunders notes that the CS Task Force did some of this work and it is on the website.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, January 13, 2007 – 3:30 – 5:00. Jo is to make a special effort to contact non-attendees, polling for continued participation and scheduling conflicts with the Tuesday afternoon time slot. *(This did not get done – Jo)*

Adjourn 4:35