

OPAS Steering Committee #13
Friday, December 15, 2006 – 3:30 – 5:00 – Capital Center

Attendees: Eileen Boerger (Agilis/ OPAS SAMR), Dick Knight (Saturday Academy/ OPAS ACCC), Bruce Schafer (ETIC/ OPAS), Wendy Powless (OIT), Scott Huff (PCC), Michal Young (UO), Don Kirkwood (N. Salem HS), Eda Davis-Butts (SMILE/ OPAS DIVR), Jay Bockelman (OIT), Endi Hartigan (OUS), Tom Lieurance (Columbia Gorge CC), Bill Becker (PSU), Susan Boyanovsky (CCWD – late), Larry Flick (OSU - late)

Workshop

Feedback indicates the workshop was a success. A draft of the Fall Workshop Report was emailed to the committee December 8, 2006; we are soliciting comments before issuing a final version of the report. Endi liked the conclusion first and suggested adding the OPAS Vision 2020. (*Jo mistakenly issued the report without the vision on December 19; that oversight was corrected on the pertinent webpages late on December 22, 2006.*)

The three foci of OPAS strategic efforts for 2007 are:

- Motivate: Enhance the ability of STEM education programs to increase students' interest and knowledge of engineering and applied science opportunities.
- Prepare: Increase the use of improved teaching methods such as active learning and student inquiry.
- Succeed: Increase the enrollment and successful completion of STEM courses by underrepresented populations.

Implications of Workshop for Committee Structure.

- Part of the restructuring should include a better naming/acronym convention.
- All chairs of subcommittees should be part of the steering committee, and we will continue to encourage collaboration.
- ACSW/CPTH and ACCC have a particular passion for current projects.
 - ACSW/CPTH – Career Pathways flyover template
 - Discussion tabled as Susan and Scott were not present at this time;
 - Does Susan want a working group or an OPAS endorsement?
 - ACCC – OMSI's NOISE grant/ conference in February
- ACCC can legitimately sunset in the next couple of months, with some concern about disinheritting a possible mechanism to the energy of informals to formals.
 - Incorporate informals into each of the foci as a method (per workshop materials), and perhaps bring new energy to the problem. Make the co-curricular world not parallel but vertical. Each College of Engineering could be connecting to local high schools to “grow their own” in a 3-, or 4-way partnership between schools, nonprofits, and industry, with informed, invested, and committed community college and university folks working with high school students. At PSU, this has not taken off because Maseeh COE people see themselves as engineers, not as educators. (Bill Becker, Wendy Powless, Dick Knight)
 - The steering committee will make sure that torch gets taken up; should not be an issue, considering the people involved.

- After some discussion of collapsing to two committees, one working primarily with students, the other with institutions and teachers, the committee agreed to stay with the three recommended by the Workshop, especially because the results of the second round of voting validated approximately equal passion for each approach.
- Bruce will take this discussion offline with individuals and committee chairs and resolve committee status prior to the next meeting. As soon as we have identified those chairpersons, we will begin scheduling meetings. OSEC wants to send delegates to each of the meetings.

Implications of Workshop for Planned OPAS RFP in the Next Biennium

- Part of the OPAS Policy Option Package (POP) included an allotment for another RFP in support of OPAS goals. The workshop informs the RFP process and provides focus; the more articulate we can be about how we would spend the money and the benefits to Oregon, the better the chance to convince the legislature to cough up the money.

Budgeting/ Lobbying:

- The OPAS POP was rolled up with another 5 POPs, which together got top priority and were mostly but were not fully funded. Chancellor George Pernsteiner is on our side, and we will know more after a meeting on January 3, 2007.
- Bruce has reserved gallery space in the legislature for some ETIC displays; OPAS could be a part of that. With some concern for the exploitation of students, and confusing the OPAS message with ETIC, this discussion will be taken offline. In general, the committee approves of the additional PR opportunity. Grant recipients are a possible source of display material and those anecdotes that are way more powerful than data.

Additional Items of Interest:

- NSF ITEST proposal. While OPAS is not currently structured to respond to RFPs, some of our members are. Jo will research eligibility, what was funded in the last round and send out the link by Tuesday, December 19.
 - Michal, Bill, Larry: being on a review committee, you can gain a lot of insight on which proposals win and why. Larry found out his group rather uninformed about educational issues. We may have them talk about those issues at a future meeting.
- ACSW/CPTH Flyover template – will add: labor market info, potential earnings at various educational levels, program information by institution, possibly potential employers, technical skills at each of the labor market transition points.
- While a “focus group” is not the appropriate term, the committee as a whole was interested in pursuing some targeted interviews with counselors, analogous to our discussion with the MESA teachers early this summer. We’d like to better understand counselors’ challenges, abilities, and resources. Are there things we can do to help them help us? This was an effort of the Student Success: Access, Motivation, and Retention committee, but Jo and a selected set of local experts and reality-checkers might be able to handle this project. *(Some work has been done to follow up the MESA teacher discussions with a more scientific survey. Bruce and Jo are investigating.)*

Next Meeting: Tuesday January 16, 2007 3:30 – 5:00 at the Capital Center.