

Senate Report
President Wiewel
5 November 2012

Following is a summary of my remarks at the November 5, 2012 PSU Faculty Senate meeting, for distribution as part of the Senate District communication approach.

1. The first item I want to share with the Senate is a report on our enrollment this fall. Jackie Balzer, Vice President for Enrollment Management and Student Affairs, and her colleague Cindy Skaruppa, Associate VP for Enrollment Management, prepared the Powerpoint presentation that is attached. In brief, enrollment is down slightly (0.8%) compared to last year. However, we had projected a 2% increase. This does mean we have not realized all the revenue we expected; the shortage will be covered from the fund balance.
2. I attended the Annual Meeting of the American Association of State Colleges and Universities (AASCU). The main topic of the conference was the sea change that higher education must undergo due to the multiple colliding pressures of the public's increasing resistance to higher tuition and student debt; the unlikelihood of significantly increased state funding; the rise of online courses and providers; and increased pressures to increase the number of graduates at less cost. The general sense at the meeting was not one of panic, but certainly one of great urgency. No institution has a clear answer, but all are trying to find ways to adapt and change. Provost Andrews addressed these issues well in her Convocation address and we will continue to pursue conversations about this issue aggressively.
3. Fred Granum was selected as the new President of Portland State University Foundation.
4. PSU received the Sloan Award for Excellence in Workplace Effectiveness and Flexibility for the second year in a row.
5. On behalf of PSU, I will be receiving the first Presidential Leadership Award given by the U.S. Green Building Council, for leadership in sustainability. This is a great recognition for PSU's efforts to profile itself as a leading institution in regard to sustainability.