

PROVOST ANDREWS' COMMENTS TO FACULTY SENATE
NOVEMBER 5, 2012

1. NWCCU Visit

Took place September 30 – October 3, 2012

Conclusion: General Commendations and Recommendations. Note these are from the draft report. Once report is finalized by review team it will be posted on OAA website. Nothing is final until acted on by NWCCU Commission in February 2013.

Commendations

1. The university is deeply engaged with the community and connected to the city of Portland. It is clear that the city of Portland is enriched by the presence of Portland State University and the efforts of its students, faculty and staff. Portland State University is deeply committed to its mission of “enhancing the intellectual, social, cultural and economic qualities of urban life,” and the mission is widely understood and embraced by faculty, staff and administration.
2. Assessment to support genuine and meaningful collaboration between student affairs and academic affairs is evident at Portland State. The results include programs like the Last Mile initiative to graduate returning students. The commitment to student success is visible and valued by the institution.
3. The education of Portland State students is enriched through numerous connections to the community including a community-based capstone experience required of undergraduates. Portland State University is commended for putting knowledge in service of the city.
4. Portland State’s commitment to sustainability is evident its curriculum, research efforts, green construction, facility master plan and other sustainable practices. Portland State’s urban setting, research expertise and community partnerships provide a unique opportunity to make an enduring and recognized contribution that advances sustainable practices.

Recommendations

1. While the university has identified core themes, objectives, and indicators of achievement, the evaluation committee found that levels of mission fulfillment have not been defined for all indicators. In other instances, the level of mission fulfillment has been defined, but the threshold level of mission fulfillment does not appear to lead to meaningful improvement. The evaluation committee recommends that indicators of achievement need to be better aligned with clearly defined and meaningful levels of mission fulfillment. (1.A.1, 1.B.2)
2. While the review of tenure-track faculty is conducted through a well-defined process, the review of faculty who have attained tenure is uneven. The evaluation committee recommends that policies and practices regarding post-tenure review be strengthened to make certain that all faculty are evaluated in a regular, systematic, substantive, and collegial manner at least once within every five-year period of service. (2.B.6)
3. The evaluation team found that, while under development, Portland State University does not have a fully-functioning program review cycle that includes all academic programs. It is recommended that Portland State University act to implement an effective system for the review of academic programs to make certain that the expected program learning outcomes for all programs are communicated, that undergraduate programs demonstrate a coherent design with appropriate breadth, depth, and sequencing and that graduate programs demonstrate greater depth of study and increased demands. (2.C.2; 2.C.4, 2.C.12).

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2. Follow up to convocation as to how we move forward on the work ahead

Provost challenge: Announcement will go out next week for what is being called the Provost challenge. Awards will be made in 3 categories: Acceleration Challenge, Reframing Challenge and Inspiration Challenge. Funds for these awards are made possible through the on-line fee.

- **Acceleration Challenge** Over the next 18 months a total of \$2.0 million of funds and support (awards ranging from \$100,000 - \$500,000) will be made available for strategic, high impact clusters of on-line classes which provide complete online programs and degrees.
- **Reframing Challenge** Approximately six grants (each of \$150,000) will be made for collaborative projects that leverage innovation in technology to deliver high-quality and affordable education.
- **Inspiration Challenge** Approximately 5 awards (\$20,000 each) will be given to new projects, which use technology to improve student success and graduation.

For these challenges to lead to transformative changes, the projects must be collaborative (individual applications will not be considered)

Details forthcoming in the next week

January 16nd OAA Winter Symposium. Morning Invited Speakers.
Afternoon Presentations of Selected Provost Challenge applications.