

OCCA Report
March, 2018
Doris Lathrop, Trustee

The OCCA Board of Directors met in Astoria at Clatsop Community College on Friday, March 16. The first order of business was to move into an executive session pursuant to ORS 192.660(2)(f) to consider information and records that are exempt from public disclosure. Once we were back in our general board meeting a motion to part ways with the executive director (Andrea Henderson) was passed. John Wykoff, Deputy Director, was voted in as the interim Director until the Board can hire a new Director in a timely fashion.

John Wykoff gave a summary of the February Legislative session. The community colleges asked for \$32M and received \$0. However, the campaign was considered a success because (1) our materials and packets were valuable, peeking legislators' interests, and (2) more community college districts were actively involved in lobbying. We need advocacy from the Governor's Office to be successful in our next ask. Moving forward, we'll have regional advocacy trainings on how to lobby our legislators with successful results. During this short session we needed to have been much more specific about what the \$32M would have bought. John asked us to now follow up with our legislators and let them know that now that we weren't funded we will need to dip into our contingency funds and what effect that will have on our college, especially our students.

The nominating committee presented a slate of officers for next year's OCCA Board. (I serve on the nominating committee.) Our president next year will be Dave Hunt, former legislator and current board member at Clackamas Community College. Dr. Thatcher will serve as our secretary.

Katie Archambault gave a workshop on federal issues. She talked about the PROSPER Act, which, if passed, will be a reauthorization of the Higher Ed Act of 1965. There are 857 changes to the original act proposed. Some of these include:

- Reauthorization of the Pell Grant
- Elimination of Title IIIA (Strengthening Institutions)
- Institutions will have to pay back money for students who don't complete a term. (This would be a major hit to us!)
- Reduce work study
- Include a new apprenticeship grant program, and
- Eliminate the definition "credit hour".

Passage of this bill will totally change what we do. House republicans drafted the bill. It needs 60 votes in the Senate to pass. We need to keep an eye on it. Please go to <https://www.nasfaa.org/PROSPER> for more information.

Other business:

- A date has not been set yet for this year's All Oregon Academic Team Event, but it will be sometime in April.
- There will be a first ever training this summer for all board members at the Oregon Gardens on June 25, 2018.
- The OCCA conference will be held November 7-9 at Sunriver.

Our next Board meeting will be held May 18 at the Cascade campus of PCC.