



## President's Report to the Board of Education

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### 1. Legislature and the Budget

- The State's budget remains uncertain, with a divide between the House and Senate regarding the need for cuts versus the budget just being "tight." One-time federal stimulus monies and one-time general fund dollars hold potential for opportunities to spur the economy. Currently, UCC has assumed flat funding during the building of our budget.
- This is the week for community college board members and community members to contact local legislators and urge them to fully fund community colleges at \$702 million for the 2021-23 biennium. The OCCA website has an Action Center with a pre-populated message that can be used for email, tweets, or phone calls.

### 2. COVID-19 Matters

- a. **Vaccinations.** Higher education employees are now on the COVID-19 Phase 1B Group 7 list as front line workers, making them eligible for the vaccine no later than May 1.
- b. **CRRSAA funds.** The US Congress made additional funds available in late December for higher education to respond to the pandemic. The Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund II (HEERF II) was authorized by the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act (CRRSAA). The funds are earmarked for students and for institutions.
  - **Students.** There are almost \$561K designated as emergency financial aid for students. The eligibility to receive funds is different from that of the CARES Act, and we are required to prioritize students with exceptional need. A UCC team has been working on the method for identifying our students who will receive this aid. Distribution in early spring term is planned, with some funds set aside for emergency student aid purposes.
  - **Institution.** There are \$2.23M for use by the College to cover costs of significant changes in instruction due to COVID-19, technology for the transition to remote and online delivery, faculty and staff training, student support needs related to COVID-19, and lost revenue defrayment. A committee of key campus constituents considered campus needs and made recommendations to SLT. Approved by SLT are:
    - \$1.2M to defray lost revenue, pending clarification from the USDOE on requirements and limitations
    - \$816K for:
      - ✓ technology
        - Laptops for faculty and staff to support remote work and improve security through use of VDIs (virtual desktop infrastructure) and our private cloud
        - Mini pcs in the library and labs using VDI
        - Laptop carts for the library
        - Software for online management of catalog and curriculum development

- ✓ Contracts for temporary employees:
  - An instructional trainer to assist in the use of teaching software and training staff in new technologies
  - Increased support of student mental health
  - A coordinator to handle HR, communications, and budget matters related to COVID-19
- ✓ Additional PPE, safety plexiglass, cleaning supplies, and signage
- ✓ COVID-19 rapid testing as required by NWAC for athletic competitions
- ✓ Non-credit student access to and support for Canvas, our online course management system.

The balance of \$214K is still under consideration for specific instructional needs.

### 3. Academics

#### a. Nursing Program

UCC's Nursing Program is quite strong. The RN program is fully approved by the Oregon State Board of Nursing as required by state statute. The standards that our Nursing program met for state approval are rigorous. In the last state review in Spring 2019, UCC's program was found to be solid and in full compliance, resulting in the maximum approval period of 8 years with no major issues to address. In response to community need, we expanded our program from cohorts of 48 students to cohorts of 64. In addition, with support from Mercy, we are pursuing national accreditation through the Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing (ACEN), which is one of the largest specialized accrediting agencies and the most long-standing nursing education accreditor in the country.

Ede Kramer, UCC's Nursing Accreditation Coordinator, continues to move the Nursing Program forward in a systematic, informed way toward national accreditation. She has:

- Reviewed the information available from our previous accreditation
- Learned ACEN expectations for a college seeking national accreditation
- Created a tentative timeline for steps leading to national accreditation
- Examined ACEN's standards, criteria, and policies to be addressed in the self-study report, which is required for accreditation application
- Begun to gather the information necessary to complete the self-study report
- Worked with UCC's Director of Institutional Effectiveness regarding internal processes to facilitate accreditation
- Requested a peer mentor from ACEN

Assuming everything stays on track, UCC's Nursing Program will apply for accreditation candidacy in Fall 2021 and plans to complete the full accreditation process by Fall 2023.

- #### b. Summer and Fall Classes.
- Plans for supporting more opportunities for face to face teaching and learning are underway. Summer will continue much as we are currently operating but with a small increase in the number of F2F, all following safety and preventative protocols. Fall will introduce more hybrid classes, many of which may have 50% of students F2F one day

a week and the other 50% on another day in the week. Other variants of instruction are also under consideration. Undergirding all instructional delivery methods will be continued compliance with OHA guidelines, OHSA requirements, and executive orders from the governor.

#### **4. Enrollment**

- a. Nationally college and university enrollments are down during the pandemic. Nationally, community college enrollment is down significantly more than enrollment at universities. According to a US Census Bureau Household Pulse Survey conducted between October 28 and March 1 that measured household experiences during the pandemic, enrollment at community colleges in five states—Alaska, Colorado, Montana, Nevada, and Oregon—are the most negatively impacted by the pandemic; that is, in those states, over half of households with a current or prospective community college student said that they canceled their plans to attend college. Cancellation of plans for university attendance is half that rate.
- b. Dual credit enrollment has been steadily increasing over the past few weeks and is close to last year's numbers. Because Wolf Creek is gradually increasing its face-to-face offerings, Job Corps enrollment has increased recently.
- c. Winter term is currently down 21% in reimbursable FTE and 11% in registered credit hours.

#### **5. Accreditation and Institutional Effectiveness**

- a. Draft reports and collection of evidence for the NWCCU Year Six *Policies, Regulations, and Finances Review* (Standard 2) are underway, with half of the drafts due at the end of March and the other half at the end of May. During summer and fall, the drafts will be compiled into one report; the narrative will be edited for accuracy, succinctness, and voice; and supporting evidence will be gathered and organized. The report will be completed in fall term and submitted in early 2022.
- b. Jana Pierce, the Institutional Effectiveness Director, is making great strides in creating a system for tracking accreditation actions and storing evidence. She is meeting with multiple campus members who have accreditation responsibilities, providing support and direction.