

UCC Board of Education
President's Report – Submitted by Debra H. Thatcher
December 12, 2018

1. **Enrollment.** Enrollment continues to trend upward by 2-3% after multiple years of steady decline. I attribute this increase to the vision of the provost - who reorganized our Student Services area and added an Enrollment Management office - and the good, steady, thoughtful work of the staff and faculty to implement new ways of recruiting, enrolling, onboarding, registering, and advising students. UCC has submitted an application to participate in the OCCA Student Success Center Guided Pathways Cohort 2. Acceptance into the cohort will provide additional support for achieving many of the academic initiatives currently underway or included in the strategic plan that are designed to increase efficiencies, introduce additional effective practices, and improve student success.
2. **Industrial Technology Center.** We continue to examine the needs of local industry vis-à-vis the technological advances that will drive changes in the workforce. I am meeting with welding, auto, engineering, and CIS/computer science faculty in January; the intended outcome is to identify programs we anticipate housing in the new and renovated facilities and move forward with initial drawings.
3. **FISH!** The College has begun its implementation of the FISH! Philosophy, a way of thinking and interacting at work that improves accountability, teamwork, and job satisfaction. Multiple training sessions have been held, and departments are implementing FISH! in ways that work for them. In January, we will have a national speaker for a 4-hour presentation, tailored to address specifics of the culture at UCC. We are thankful for the financial support of the UCC Foundation in this strategic initiative.
4. **Search for Director of Advancement.** The director's position, which includes responsibilities for the Office of Advancement, Fundraising, Grants, and the UCC Foundation (as executive director), was re-advertised recently after streamlining the job description. Review of applications begins January 14.
5. **News.**
 - a. **OERs.** UCC continues to work to limit cost increases for students. One of the statewide initiatives for this is the use of open educational resources (OERs), which are free or low cost textbooks and other class materials. In comparison to the other 16 Oregon community colleges, last year UCC realized the third highest savings to students through the use of OERs. One of our faculty, Dr. Mick Davis, wrote his own OER, *Body Physics: Motion to Metabolism*, as a way of making complex physics material more accessible to students. He expects the book to be completed by July, and he will be a featured speaker at the 2019 Cascadia Open Education Summit in Vancouver, BC.
 - b. **Tap^hòyt^ha' Hall.** Tap^hòyt^ha' Hall opened for Spring Term 2018, and is home to the humanities. Writing, communications, and language are the primary courses taught in the building. Recently, Mahlum Architects, the building's designer, received a design award for Tap^hòyt^ha' from the Portland chapter of the American Institute of Architects. Mahlum describes Tap^hòyt^ha' this way: "The new building encourages a sense of calmness, with the play of daylight creating a cozy, inviting atmosphere. The building is literally see-through, with roof

and exterior spaces that extend out – blurring the lines between inside and outside, and between personal space and community space.”

6. **Governor’s Recommended Budget (GRB).** The governor recommended a decrease in the base budget for community colleges , from the current \$575M to \$546M, but called for an investment package of \$1.9B that would fund education, including an increase in community college funding to \$647M (the amount requested by HECC to sustain current service levels) plus an additional \$70M to fund expansion of CTE in community colleges; she did not recommend the requested \$70M to fund student support for first generation and underrepresented students. Funding at the proposed base budget level would require a 17.9% tuition increase both years of the biennium in order to maintain our current level of service, whereas funding at the \$647M level assumes a 3.5% tuition increase. The Department of Administrative Services identified \$590M as the amount needed to maintain current service level (using a state formula which does not take into account unfunded mandates or community college deficit spending). The GRB includes doubling the funding of the Oregon Opportunity Grant and full funding of the Oregon Promise. The full 492-page governor’s budget report can be found at https://www.oregon.gov/das/Financial/Documents/2019-21_gb.pdf; a 48-page summary can be found at https://www.ogon.gov/gov/policy/Documents/019-21_turning-point.pdf.
7. **CTE Funding Distribution.** The community colleges have requested a \$70M legislative investment in Career and Technical Education (as mentioned in #6 above). In order to provide the legislature more concrete information about how those funds would be utilized, the OPC, OCCA, and CCWD are collaborating to answer the following questions: How should the funds be distributed. How do we incorporate the skills gap into decisions about CTE programs to fund? What support should be in place from local employers and workforce boards? How is equity as a principle for adult attainment considered? Should high demand, high wage, high cost programs be most important? Can the CTE programs be both credit and non-credit? What student support services are needed for the CTE programs? I serve on the sub-committee considering these questions and making recommendations to the OPC/OCCA/CCWD this week. Following acceptance of the criteria and funding model, campuses have until January 9 to submit supposals for CTE program development to OCCA/CCWD.
8. **Southern Oregon Allied and Mental Health College Proposal.** On Monday, 12/10/18, representatives from the five southern Oregon community colleges (Umpqua, Southwestern, Rogue, Klamath, and Lane) met with a few members of the Governor’s Rural Medical Training Workgroup to discuss the rationale and plan for developing a Roseburg-based college for allied and mental health professionals to serve rural Oregon – a “grow your own” model designed to create a reliable pipeline of skilled allied and mental health providers who are more likely to stay in rural settings upon graduation. We had a productive discussion that centered on community college questions, concerns, and perceived barriers. We all agreed upon the need for health professionals, and a few new options were proposed for consideration. Another meeting is tentatively scheduled for mid-February.