

Engineering Technology Industry Council

Meeting held April 17, 2009 at Mentor Graphics

Voting Members

Eileen Boerger	CorSource
Ann Bunnenberg - phone	Electrical Geodesics
Lisa Graham	Bend Research
Art Johnson	KPFF
Gary Kaleta	Gunderson/OMI
Jon Lind	IBM
Eric Meslow	Timbercon
Kathy Miller	H-P
Steve Pawlowski – phone	Intel
Paul TenZeldam	Tektronix
John Willis	CH2M Hill
Fred Ziari	ezWireless

Nonvoting Members

Ron Adams	OSU
Charlie Jones – phone	OIT
Dick Knight	PSU
Bruce Schafer	OUS
Ed Thompson	OHSU

Other Attendees

Tom Chester - phone	OIT
Joyce Cresswell	Saturday Academy
Richard Croft – phone	EOU
Dan Hammerstrom	PSU
Dave Johnson	UO
Chris Larson	UO
Marilyn Levine - phone	EOU
John Marsaglia	WOU
Greg Pleva	SOU
Fred Pratter	EOU
Michele Vitali	OUS

Fred Ziari, ETIC Chair, opened the meeting and asked for approval of the January 9, 2009 minutes. A motion was made, seconded and unanimously approved to accept the minutes.

Legislative Update: 2009-2011 Biennium Proposal

Fred Ziari reported that he and OSU student, Hilary Shoop, will be providing formal testimony to the Ways & Means Education Subcommittee on April 22nd. Ms. Shoop also participated in our recent ETIC legislative meetings in Salem. Additionally, we have recruited a middle school student, high school student, their parents, a PSU student, Jon Lind of IBM and Dave Ripley, who sits on the PSU Engineering Advisory Board to provide public testimony on April 20.

The full Ways & Means Committee will also be holding field hearings around the state on the following dates, for which we have recruited various ETIC members and students to attend on ETIC's behalf.

- PCC Cascade Campus, Portland, April 21
- Capitol Building, Salem, April 23
- Central Oregon Community College, Bend, April 29
- Southern Oregon University, Ashland, April 30
- University of Oregon, Eugene, May 1

Bruce invited anyone to attend the public hearings, or contact him if there was someone they would like to send. He will be taking a lot of the information presented today and capturing it for the upcoming hearings and testimony.

Fred thanked everyone for their participation in the recent legislative meetings, and the achievements of our coalition. Fred and other members have been actively involved in recent strategy meetings and will continue to work very hard to keep our proposal intact.

Bruce reminded the group of the current allocation for the next biennium:

ETIC 2009-2011 Base Budget (\$M)		Private Support	POP Increase
EOU	0.48	0	15,000
OHSU	2.00	5,952,402	0
OIT	1.48	1,480,000	151,200
OSU	20.58	10,000,000	1,350,000
PSU	8.03	8,030,000	600,000
SOU	0.56	0	6,000
UO	3.09	10,000,000	482,400
WOU	0.79	297,152	0
OPAS	1.31	0	395,400
Total	\$38.32	35,759,554	3,000,000

Base Budget Reductions

Due to economic shortfalls faced by the state, Fred was recently informed by the Chancellor that ETIC needs to provide an analysis of impacts from 20% and 30% cuts to our base budget along with all other state agencies. The final state budget will be based on revenue forecasts that won't be available until mid-May. Each of the campuses were asked to prepare four slides for today's meeting on the impact of both campus-wide and ETIC budget reductions of 20% and 30%.

EOU – Fred Pratter presented the slides for Eastern which can be found on the ETIC website at <http://www.oregonetic.org/09-11/proposals/EOUslides4-17-09.pdf>.

They are undergoing a close reexamination of their goals, and noted that a faculty reduction of two would effectively eliminate the entire computer science concentration. If they are forced to cut their program, students will probably not go west. Fred Ziari stated that he had received a call from one of the commissioners in eastern Oregon stressing how important the ETIC funding is to the region.

OHSU –Ed Thompson presented the slides for the OHSU Department of Science & Engineering which can be found on the ETIC website at

<http://www.oregonetic.org/09-11/proposals/OHSUslides4-17-09.pdf>.

They would not have the same campus wide impact because of their funding sources, but an ETIC reduction would significantly impact their hiring of faculty, graduates, and externally funded research.

OIT –Charlie Jones presented the slides for OIT which can be found on the ETIC website at

<http://www.oregonetic.org/09-11/proposals/OITslides4-17-09.pdf>.

Impact of campus-wide and ETIC budget reductions to their campus will affect flexibility in terms of classes and time to graduation, equipment for their renewable energy program, faculty and staff.

OSU –Ron Adams presented the slides for OSU which can be found on the ETIC website at

<http://www.oregonetic.org/09-11/proposals/OSUslides4-17-09.pdf>.

40% of the College of Engineering funding comes from ETIC. These reductions would effectively wipeout spinouts. There will also be substantial reductions from campus-wide reductions. Probably loss of star faculty could cause junior faculty to question our commitment.

PSU –Dick Knight presented the slides for PSU which can be found on the ETIC website at

<http://www.oregonetic.org/09-11/proposals/PSUslides4-17-09.pdf>.

Added a slide showing how their CECS had fundamentally transformed over the last decade due to the effects of ETIC. Losing that leverage will hurt them just as quickly and cause the college to suffer more than the rest of the campus. They provided increased levels of detail. Enrollments are at an all-time high right now, as education tends to be counter-cyclic to the economy. They have frozen their searches until they know more about the budget. The reductions would put them at risk during their ABET accreditation process because of declining quality and breadth. In most cases they don't have the tools to downsize the college in a reasonable way due to tenured track faculty and would be unable to deal with cuts that deep at the college level. Their MESA precollege program is also eligible for a 40% cut.

Ron and Dick provided more detail about possible exigency. The president of the university is the only one who has the power to declare exigency (the academic equivalent of bankruptcy) and either release tenured faculty or eliminate a program. Because one side of the ledger is effectively off limits during downsizing, it is not a very effective way of cutting the budget.

SOU –Greg Pleva presented the slides for SOU which can be found on the ETIC website at

<http://www.oregonetic.org/09-11/proposals/SOUslides4-17-09.pdf>.

UO –Dave Johnson presented the slides for UO which can be found on the ETIC website at <http://www.oregonetic.org/09-11/proposals/UOslides4-17-09.pdf>.

Reducing staff and infrastructure puts more demands on the research faculty and graduate students. They have used the ETIC funds as seed money and leveraged for federal funds for equipment, this will lead to a reduction in grant funding. At the 30% reduction level it significantly impacts what they are doing with students. They don't support tenure track faculty with ETIC funds, just use it for start-up packages.

WOU –John Marsaglia presented the slides for WOU which can be found on the ETIC website at <http://www.oregonetic.org/09-11/proposals/WOUslides4-17-09.pdf>.

Possible furloughs for existing faculty. Loss of their instructional FTEs results in approximately 1000 undergraduate credits per year. They have a campus promise to not raise tuition for four years while a student is there, so reducing their adjuncts will greatly affect how they can serve their students.

OPAS –Bruce Schafer presented the slides for OPAS which can be found on the ETIC website at <http://www.oregonetic.org/09-11/proposals/OPASslides4-17-09.pdf>.

We made great progress in our first 8 years of ETIC funding but the dot com bust and other factors have reduced enrollments in the last several years. Data indicates we are showing an increase in sophomore enrollments now. OPAS has one ¼ time person supporting 8 committees.

Discussion

Dick Knight noted that the budgetary focus will be on core teaching programs and less likely on the human service programs. OPAS administration is a relatively small part of the ETIC budget, but we probably want to be cautious about featuring it too much.

Fred Pratter noted vulnerability in that CS and Engineering are very expensive programs, and the programs that tend to get cut are the most expensive.

Art Johnson asked about Oregon's percentage of university funding. Dick responded that of the general educational budget, roughly 1/3 is provided by the state and 2/3 by tuition. Therefore, campus-wide cuts will not affect them as much, but ETIC funding comes through at 100%. We could easily lose the benefit of this last decade of ETIC funding.

When asked about losing our top-tier faculty to other schools, Ron Adams responded that the top-10 schools recruit with their endowments. Dave Johnson added that we are also losing star faculty to our global economy, as many are recruited outside of the United States.

All agreed that we are not saying we are not prepared to take budget cuts. Everyone is prepared to work through the institution-wide cuts, but some of these cuts will do permanent damage. Our statements should reflect the fact that we want to move the university system to the next level, not devastate it. We need to stress how we are going to protect this investment, reminding them what we have accomplished and showing them the missed opportunities rather than all gloom and doom. It was pointed out that no good crises should be wasted.

Kathy Miller attended a recent Oregon Business Council meeting and the mantra we should be taking away is that this is important for Oregon's economy.

Fred added that we could be the recipient of federal stimulus funds for green technology. He will continue to meet with Economic Advisor Nancy Hamilton and the OECD on this issue. It was noted that this is not a solution, but rather a way to be proactive.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned.