

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

February 15, 1997 Hearing Room, Bend City Hall

09:00 AM Tapes 27 - 28

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Rep. Dennis Luke, Chair

SUBCOMMITTEE

PRESENT: Rep. Lynn Lundquist

Rep. Ben Westlund

Sen. Neil Bryant

MEMBERS EXCUSED:

Rep. Terry Thompson, Vice-Chair

Rep. Roger Beyer

Rep. Ron Sunseri

Rep. Charles Starr

Rep. Bob Jenson

Rep. Ryan Deckert

STAFF PRESENT:

Bryan Boehringer, Administrator

Joan Diaz, Administrative Support

ISSUE HEARD:

Public Hearing -

Central Oregon Community College Cascadia Concept

These minutes are in compliance with Senate and House Rules. Only text enclosed in quotation marks reports a speaker's exact words. For complete contents, please refer to the tapes.

Tape/#	Speaker	Comments
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TAPE 27, A		
<u>PUBLIC HEARING - CENTRAL OREGON COMMUNITY COLLEGE CASCADIA CONCEPT</u>		
	Chair Luke	Opens meeting at 9:00 a.m. Introduces subcommittee and staff. Asks staff to explain format for the meeting.
	Bryan Boehringer	Committee Administrator, advises audience members to sign witness registration form if testimony is to be presented. Explains meeting.
	Chair Luke	Explains the issue to be discussed and clarifies SB 407 sponsored by Sen. Bryant. Comments that the written testimony received before today will be entered into the record, and record of this meeting will remain open to accept any additional written testimony until February 22, 1997.
	Sen. Neil Bryant	Responds to Chair's comments and appreciates public hearing in Bend so that constituents can testify.
	Rep. Ben Westlund	Expresses appreciation for participating in subcommittee.
	James Carnahan	<p>Board Chairman, Central Oregon Community College (COCC), introduces other board members. Highlights:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Makes general presentation of plan for the Cascadia Concept which they consider a work in progress. * High priority issue for COCC. * Approaching 50th anniversary; looking forward to next step of their service level. * Only possible if legislature is willing to open the door. * COCC serves 3,000 FTE; actual enrollment is twice that amount. * COCC has seven outlying service centers; grown 50% in last

		<p>ten years. Covers 10,000 sq. miles.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Cascadia Concept: the educational hub for postsecondary education services in Central Oregon. * Want to function as the hub to provide baccalaureate degrees not only from their own staff, but from other community colleges. * Need legislative change and approval of Oregon State System of Higher Education (OSSHE).
	Carnahan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * The #2 factor for expansion is labor ability. * Access to a 4 yr. institution is a primary factor for professionals in the community. * Most students work to afford education; Concept enables them to live, work, and study in same community. * Community Endorsements: (EXHIBIT A).¹(* Central Oregon is the most densely populated area in US whose citizens have to drive 100 miles to attend a 4-year college. * 94% of people that move to Deschutes County are working age people with children, or people concerned with educational services. * University Center provides bachelors and masters degree at the present time.
	Robert Barber	President, COCC, explains University Center to which nine institutions provide baccalaureate programs.
	Carnahan	Comments it was a year ago that COCC decided to establish the Cascadia Concept.
	Rep. Westlund	Asks if Cascadia's goal is different from COCC.
	Carnahan	Responds that it is not. Discusses North Campus Plan near Redmond Airport which is "on the drawing board."
		Responds to question from Sen. Bryant that there is funding for

	Carnahan	project at this time.
	Barber	<p>Explains plans for further funding :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * funds for first building is intact * 2nd building funding almost complete * 3rd building is the manufacturing technology center; that building is one that COCC needs partnerships in order to complete.
	Rep. Westlund	Asks what is the square footage of the area.
	Barber	Responds the property is 25 acres compared to University of Oregon property at 40 acres. Explains there is room to grow.
	Carnahan	Comments they are providing opportunities for adults beyond the community college level.
	Barber	<p>Gives highlights of proposal:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Not asking for endorsement per se but wants to share perspective with committee. * Need flexibility to meet changing demands. * Long Range Plan Goal #2: Some upper division needs which business and industry agree the community college needs. * University Center does not fill all the gaps which has resulted in planning the Cascadia model. * Select baccalaureate degrees by year 2002 to fill the voids. * Wrong to assume Cascadia is taking over the institution. * Over 5,000 students; 3,000 FTE. 10% will probably be in Cascadia. * Year 2002 is the normal 10-year accrediting period; would like new programs to go through that accreditation cycle; need a graduate in year 2001 to be effective. Therefore a student has to be on the tract 4 years prior.

		<p>* No intent to decrease what is being done in community college programs.</p> <p>* Funding comes from State Board of Education. These new programs would be funded by OSSHE.</p> <p>* Central Oregon community deserves quality, timely higher education services.</p>
		<p>* Retain and expand University Center, not eliminate it.</p> <p>* Refers to Utah Valley as an example.</p> <p>* Nine institutions; 12 programs and 1/2 at the masters level at University Center. Some programs voids in Computer Information Technologies, Computer Integrated Manufacturing, Allied Health, Business-Entrepreneur, Natural Resources, Arts & Science.</p>
	Rep. Lynn Lundquist	Asks why these programs cannot be accessed through distance learning.
	Barber	Explains hands-on learning is needed for particular technical equipment.
	Chair Luke	Asks about faculty and who would supply faculty for University Center and for this program.
	Barber	Responds they have a partnership with Eastern Oregon State College; most of the programs offered can be used with present faculty (80% have Ph.Ds.) Most of the other instructors have baccalaureate and/or masters degrees.
	Rep. Westlund	Asks if one of the motivating aspects of the Cascadia Concept is the reluctance of the OSSHE community to place faculty in Central Oregon.
	Barber	Comments Central Oregon has not been a priority in OSSHE planning. While OSSHE has a lot of other issues to address, this is an option COCC can offer. Comments they should be looking at more ways for institutions to provide programs specific to the region. Unrealistic when an institution has broader issues and OSSHE is not positioned to move quickly.

	Carnahan	Comments since taxpayers have forced Measure 5 and 47, this is the opportune time to take a look at this in a different manner at less or equal cost.
	Barber	<p>Continues discussing advantages:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Comments on Specialty Degrees which do not exist in OSSHE. * Geographic: 2 years study of Information Systems do not fill students' needs. * Inverted degrees designed for students to specialize in the first 2 years and generalize in last 2 years. That is in place now. * Benefits: student can leave after 2 years and obtain a job: then come back for generalized education last 2 years. Precedence: Williamsport Community College in Pennsylvania; very successful. Utah Valley Community College also has instituted it. West Virginia, California, Miami-Dade and Maricopa (AZ) are also considering this kind of program. * Access, affordability and flexibility. Governor's Access Agenda: 5,000 new college freshman. Differentiated tuition; options for students who can't move; improved financial aid. * Taxpayers: utilize buildings more effectively. Resources shared. * Credentialed staff in place. * Requesting statute change only in 1997. * Resources devoted to faculty and staff not infrastructure. * Budget Source: OSSHE budget upper division; no local taxes. State Board continue to fund lower division.
	Rep. Lundquist	Comments that there is excess capacity now which would allow this program.
	Barber	Comments they are building a new library; converting existing library to classrooms. North campus under construction now. Reaching critical mass so day and night programs can run to the maximum.

	Rep. Westlund	Asks if student count is anticipated to be drawn down from COCC.
	Barber	<p>Responds that it is not. Comments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Anytime a program has been added at any level, program continues to expand. But statutory barriers restrict planning options. * Need a paradigm shift. * Need people to think beyond that community colleges are two-year programs only.
TAPE 28, A		
	Max Merrill	Board Member (former), COCC, gives input on relationship with OSSHE. Only time OSSHE has acted on community colleges' behalf is when political pressure is put upon them, from legislators in particular.
	Carnahan	Introduces Gail Mitchell, board member, COCC.
	Barber	Continues testimony.
	James Lussier	Board Member, former member of Governor's Task Force on Higher Education, shares insights.
	Chair Luke	Asks if state board has authority now to approve 4 yr. degrees for COCC.
	Barber	Responds that he believes that is true, but there is some language in the community college statute that does not let community college <i>receive</i> the authority to offer 4-yr. degrees.
	Carnahan	Comments the basic issue is requesting a statutory change from the Legislature.
	Rep. Westlund	Comments that he is serving on Legislative Assembly's Ways & Means Committee and will discuss financial impact later with COCC Board.

	Rep. Lundquist	Asks whether there is a feeling this concept will move forward.
	Barber	Responds that one of the provosts expressed interest in working with COCC. This would be the opportune time.
	Rep. Westlund	Comments that this subcommittee needs to have details in order to bring concept to Legislative Assembly and to support this type of change.
	Barber	Responds he will forward a one-page fact sheet that will give details which is very consistent with the operating budgets that are used in other areas.
	Sen. Bryant	Comments that this would help community college in conversations with OSSHE; Chancellor Cox has been receptive. This has not always been the case with the previous chancellor. Comments a new census will shift political representation and may affect these efforts.
	Fred Boyle	Citizen, testifies in favor of the Cascadia Concept (EXHIBIT B). ² (
	Becky Johnson	President, Samuel S. Johnson Foundation, speaks against Cascadia Concept. Comments that this program is quite complicated and affects state funding formulas (EXHIBIT C). ³ (Expresses opinion that the "#1 genuine crises in every state is in K-12 schools, not in Higher Education."
	Sen. Bryant	Responds and acknowledges receipt of her letters. Doesn't agree with some of the COCC statements she made.
	Johnson	Refers to the article from Dr. Diane Ravitch in her submitted exhibit.
	Harry Brendle	Member, Central Oregon Economic Development Commission, testifies in favor of Cascadia Concept ^[4] (EXHIBIT D).
	Bill Lindemann	Vice President, Central Oregon Community College, testifies in favor of Cascadia Concept.

	Jan Wick	Owner, Avion Water Company, testifies in favor of Cascadia Concept [5] (EXHIBIT E).
	Kathryn Eckman	Bend City Council Member and a registered student with the University Center at Eastern Oregon State College testifies in support of Cascadia Concept (EXHIBIT F). ⁶ (Requests to enter Pat Roden's testimony into the record [7] (EXHIBIT G).
	Fred Graf	Private citizen, testifies in support of Cascadia Concept.
	Rep. Lundquist	Comments that all parties need to work on communications issues and not work around the issue. There are a lot of priorities: higher education is competing with women & children, K-12, health plan and prisons. The problem is getting enough resources and how to maximize those opportunities through the most fiscal, prudent manner possible. Would like more information from participants who have appeared here.
	Ilene Olsen	Student and employed with Bend School District gives testimony. Completed AA from COCC, Liberal Studies degree in June. Masters program at EOSC. (EXHIBIT H). ⁸ (Most of her classes have been accessed through satellite program, but quality of video is poor as well as volume. Satellite does not allow for classroom discussion. Cascadia Concept would correct many of these problems. Supports bill.
	Ramona Kaloi	Student, lives in Madras. Goal is to graduate with degree in Elementary Education. Has received scholarship offers to relocate but cannot afford to take advantage of it. If 4 year baccalaureate degree offered at COCC, it would be a tremendous advantage [9] (EXHIBIT I).
	Kaloi	Responds to committee's questions that she commutes from Madras for classes.
	Dorothy Stenkamp	Private citizen testifies against change in statutory language. [10] (Explains if Legislature passes this legislation, Blue Mountain Community College will be asking for the same kind of program, citing specific needs to their geographical area, as will other community colleges.
		Responds and gives analogy: Blue Mountain Community

	Sen. Bryant	College is only 45 minutes from La Grande, whereas Bend doesn't have that geographic parameter. If this is successful, it would be logical to have another kind of "hybrid educational institution."
	Stenkamp	Comments she is not sure but other community colleges will be asking for funding as well.
TAPE 28, B		
	Bruce Bishop	Private citizen, retired federal officer, testifies he supports the Cascadia Concept (EXHIBIT J). ¹¹ (
	Wayne Smith	Director of Recreation Services, Bend Metro Park & Recreation District, testifies in support of Cascadia Concept. Explains Bend is a recreation center, but the state of Oregon does not currently offer a degree in recreation administration. Comments on interest in parks and recreation, tourism, hospitality industry, etc. (EXHIBIT K). ¹² (
	Phil Aines	Private citizen, retired, served as chair for Central Oregon Consortium for Higher Education, COHEC. Testifies in support of Cascadia Concept. Explains he has never heard any COCC official state there will be any sacrificing of community college programs for baccalaureate programs (EXHIBIT L) [13](.
	Jack McCown	Professor, COCC testifies in favor of Cascadia Concept. Explains 4-year degree and 4-year universities are not the same thing. The interest for most people should be how will COCC augment courses. Most of his colleagues and he chose not to stay at a university; this community college focuses on students/community. Cascadia will not absorb community college; will offer selective degrees while still operating community college (EXHIBIT M). ¹⁴ (
	Bill Chase	Asks just to enter his testimony (EXHIBIT N). ¹⁵ (
	Ken Mays	Instructor, COCC, testifies in favor of the Cascadia Concept (EXHIBIT O). ¹⁶ (
		Private citizen, testifies against Cascadia Concept. Asks

	Neil Elsheimer	committee to look to year 2002 and beyond. Expresses concerns with environmental expansion of college from its present site. Alder Butte and Alder Meadows will be impacted. Recommends a separate administrative commission for community college and Higher Education as in other states.
	Ivy Down	Private citizen, testifies in favor of Cascadia Concept. Gives input on her experience with her own family and neighbors who lived in an isolated community similar to Bend and how difficult it was to obtain educational services.
	Jack Holt	Member, Bend Chamber of Commerce, testifies in favor of Cascadia Concept (EXHIBIT P) . ¹⁷ (
	Sen. Bryant	Discusses when Central Oregon Community College was just an experiment, but succeeded. Now other community colleges have adopted the same idea.
	Holt	Comments if there are concerns OSSHE is not adaptive to change, they must recognize success and how a fast moving world requires ability to adapt to change.
	Chair Luke	Comments he has been impressed with the amount of time the Chamber of Commerce has put into planning the project.
	Bart Queary	Vice President, Instruction, COCC testifies in favor of Cascadia Concept (EXHIBIT Q) . ¹⁸ (
	Chair Luke	Thanks staff and subcommittee. Adjourns hearing 12:30 p.m.

Submitted By, Reviewed By,

Joan Diaz, Bryan Boehringer,

Administrative Support Administrator

EXHIBIT SUMMARY

¹(**A - COCC Cascadia Concept, written materials, Jim Carnahan, 30 pp**

²(**B - COCC Cascadia Concept, written materials, Fred Boyle, 3 pp**

³(**C - COCC Cascadia Concept, written materials, Becky Johnson, 87 pp**

[\[4\]](#)(**D - COCC Cascadia Concept, written materials, Harry Brendle, 1 pg**

[\[5\]](#)(**E - COCC Cascadia Concept, written materials, Jan Wick, 1 pg**

⁶(**F - COCC Cascadia Concept, written materials, Kathryn Eckman, 2 pp**

[\[7\]](#)(**G - COCC Cascadia Concept, written materials, Pat Roden, 2 pp**

⁸(**H - COCC Cascadia Concept, written materials, Ilene Olsen, 3 pp**

[\[9\]](#)(**I - COCC Cascadia Concept, written materials, Ramona Kaloi, 1 pg**

[\[10\]](#)(**J - COCC Cascadia Concept, written materials, Bruce Bishop, 1 pg**

¹¹(**K - COCC Cascadia Concept, written materials, Wayne Smith, 2 pp**

¹²(**L - COCC Cascadia Concept, written materials, Phil Aines, 2 pp**

[\[13\]](#)(**M - COCC Cascadia Concept, written materials, Jack McCown, 3 pp**

¹⁴(**N - COCC Cascadia Concept, written materials, Bill Chase, 1 pg**

¹⁵(**O - COCC Cascadia Concept, written materials, Ken Mays, 1 pg**

¹⁶(**P - COCC Cascadia Concept, written materials, Jack Holt, 2 pp**

¹⁷(**Q - COCC Cascadia Concept, written materials, Bart Queary, 2 pp**

¹⁸(**R - COCC Cascadia Concept, submitted materials, Mike Derman, 1 pg**

S - COCC Cascadia Concept, submitted materials, Bart Queary, 2 pp