

Chair Report, Steve Loosley

December 8, 2018

1. **Advocacy.** Senator Prozanski visited our campus on December 3rd and toured the welding and automotive programs. He watched students working on their final exam projects and got a first-hand look at our cramped facilities. He's acutely aware and sympathetic to the challenges we face to raise matching funds for capital projects.

Dr. Thatcher and I continue to work with a committee of community college presidents to explore ways to change the match requirements for capital construction grants. Section XI-G of the Oregon Constitution empowers the state to sell bonds to finance specific types of higher education and community college projects. The amount contributed by the state must be matched by the institution or allocated from the General Fund.

We are exploring options ranging from referring a constitutional change to voters to asking the legislature to assist colleges with the match. There is no easy solution for us. Our state needs a new funding mechanism if we are to train our workforce, so business can thrive and people have opportunities for upward social mobility. If we don't have the financial capacity to build the facilities and purchase the equipment to train our workforce, we've failed and our state has failed.

2. **Legion Field turf project.** The UCC Baseball Team hosted a donor appreciation and fundraising dinner for community baseball supporters on December 7th to celebrate the turf project. The project has garnered broad community support. Under Craig Jackson and Guy Kennerly's leadership, we are within reach of our initial goal to raise funds for new turf. Legion plans to complete the installation by spring. The turf is excellent news for UCC. Our team will have an all-weather field for practice and games. Watch for Coach Robins to launch a Riverhawks baseball team that wins in 2020!
3. **OCCA.** Doris was unable to attend the OCCA Meeting this month and asked me to attend. It was my first OCCA meeting. Board members and community college presidents attend the meetings, and each college has one vote. Board members meet by themselves for one hour before the formal meeting. We had a lively discussion about how our role as elected board members, and what we want from OCCA.

The association recently hired a new executive director, Dr. Cam Preus, the former president at Blue Mountain, to reboot the organization. Dr. Preus is challenging OCCA to rethink everything beginning with goals. A question we should always ask is What does our UCC Board of Education want from OCCA? The top goal for the association for this year goes a long way to answer the question: "Secure adequate funding to fulfill the mission of community colleges and achieve our goals." At our December meeting, Dr. Thatcher and I will inform the Board about the Governor's Budget and OCCA's advocacy initiative.