PROVOST ANDREWS’ COMMENTS: MARCH 2, 2015 FACULTY SENATE MEETING

First Annual Cultural Competency Celebration
ASPSU is hosting the First Annual Cultural Competency Celebration today (March 2), with events throughout the day, culminating with a celebration gathering right after the Senate meeting in SMSU Ballroom (5:00pm – 9:00pm). Thank you to those who attended the day’s events and I hope you can attend this evening.

SEM (Strategic Enrollment Management) Planning:
On February 23rd I held an open forum to provide an update on the Division of Academic Affairs, FY16 Strategic Enrollment Management (SEM) plans and Performance-Based Budgeting (PBB) process. Over 50 faculty members, deans, associate deans, department chairs and staff attended. The presentation provided an overview and the status of the FY16 enrollment management and budget planning process, as well as an opportunity for questions, comments and suggestions. There is more information and links to the planning timeline on my Provost Blog and recent post on Status of Budget Planning.

School of Public Health Initiative
January and February were busy months for the joint School of Public Health Initiative between PSU and OHSU. The Faculty Senate Budget Committee and the Educational Policy Committee have had a number of meetings with representatives from both PSU and OHSU. There have been several open forums and meetings held with the School of Community Health faculty and staff and CUPA faculty and staff. The faculty involved continue to work on logistics associated with a proposed school.

Conversations about a SPH are by no means new. I am told they began in 2007. My first involvement was in 2010 (almost 2 years before my arrival at PSU in July 2012) when I was the Vice Chancellor for Academic Strategies for the Oregon University System. Oregon State University (OSU), Oregon Health and Science University (OHSU), and Portland State University (PSU) were exploring one joint school for the State. Eventually OSU decided it would proceed with its own school of public health. OHSU and PSU decided to continue to explore a collaboration to create a joint school.

Academic partnerships between PSU and OHSU are also not new. We have a 21-year history of offering the joint OMPH (Oregon Masters in Public Health), we have many faculty who collaborate on research, and we now co-occupy the Collaborative Life Sciences Building (CLSB) on the south waterfront.

It is not easy to bring two universities with differences in structure, funding models, personnel, etc. together. It is a challenge to look beyond the immediate present constraints of budgets and imagine a future for PSU that is enhanced by a strong, high quality nationally recognized school of public health. Individual faculty and staff wonder what it means for day-to-day work and the potential impact on careers, governance, curriculum, budget, and organizational structure. Our Faculty Senate committees (the Faculty Senate Budget Committee and the Educational Policy Committee) are looking at the impact of a new school on existing schools and colleges, the viability of a school of public health, how governance will work, etc.

I urge the Faculty Senate to not delay on the opportunity to take action on the proposal to establish a joint school before the end of this academic year. There is a large amount of information available
about this initiative regarding the benefits to students and to PSU. Those involved with the work have been very responsive to any and all questions and requests for information. Many documents can be found on the School of Public Health joint website currently hosted by OHSU, but soon to move to a joint site.

One of my blogs this week will also discuss this initiative.

**Inaugural convening of the Second Thursday Social Club**

The next convening of the Second Thursday Social Club will be held on March 12<sup>th</sup> from 4-6:30 p.m. in the Office of Academic Innovation--SMSU 209.

There was a great turnout on February 12<sup>th</sup>. We hope to see those who came in February come again—and this time, bring some colleagues. The Social Club takes place on the second Thursday of every month. There is a cash bar with food provided courtesy of the administration. PSU staff and faculty are all welcome. Because alcohol will be served, students cannot be included.