

AMENDED RESOLUTION NO. 15-2

BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF OREGON INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

A REVISION TO RESOLUTION ON SHARED GOVERNANCE AT OREGON INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

The Board of Trustees of the Oregon Institute of Technology adopted the following resolutions at a duly held meeting:

Whereas, the establishment of separate, institutional governing boards for each of Oregon’s public universities, including Oregon Institute of Technology (“University” or “Oregon Tech”) is a propound opportunity for the success of students; and

Whereas, the authority of the Oregon Institute of Technology Board of Trustees (“Board”) and President may be informed and improved by the purposeful engagement with the University’s stakeholders – including its faculty, staff, and students; and

Whereas, the concept of shared governance in an academic environment is expected and appreciated; and

Whereas, the Board is much closer to the affairs of the University than previous system-wide governing boards; and

Whereas, a statement affirming the principles of shared governance is a critical step in the success of the University, building trust among university stakeholders and demonstrating a commitment to open deliberation and decision-making;

Whereas, a revision to the statement affirming the principles of shared governance, following a comprehensive review of Oregon’s University Governing Boards (AGB-Consulting, 2022), is necessary to better define the roles, responsibilities, and interconnectedness of university stakeholders in commitment to open deliberation and decision-making;

Now, therefore, the Board resolves as follows:

Section 1

Principles and Values

The Board is committed to shared governance in the academic environment and embraces the following principles and values to guide the efficient governance and administration of the University:

- a. Frank Communication
- b. Open deliberation and decision-making
- c. Consistent reflection upon the University’s mission statement and strategic plan
- d. Recognition by all University stakeholders of roles and their responsibilities in the efficient governance and administration of the University.
- e. Mutual trust and respect among all University stakeholders.

The Board is committed to the adherence and upholding of the values discussed herein. Thus, each governing body described below shall be able to concretely demonstrate the implementation of these

values, and the Board will be charged with overseeing the evidence of implementation as applicable by law and other Board Policies.

Section 2

Definition

Shared governance is a best practice that recognizes the essential symbiotic relationship that exists between Oregon Tech's Board, President, Faculty, Administration, Staff, and Students. Shared governance is defined by appropriately shared responsibility, accountability, and cooperative action among the Board, administrators, faculty, staff, and students, and, as applicable, their duly constituted representative bodies, intended to foster constructive and collaborative thought and action within the institutional structure in service of the University's mission. For the purposes of this Resolution, accountability is defined as the willingness to accept responsibility for the actions and outcomes of those actions. This requires collaborative communication and cooperative action between the independent governing bodies herein, with all parties acting for the benefit of the University and to uphold the University's values and mission statement.

Section 3

Roles, Responsibilities and Representation

a. Board

The Board is vested with the ultimate fiduciary authority to manage the affairs of the University under Oregon law and applicable Board Policies and actions, including the Board policy on Delegation of Authority. The Board shall receive and consider input and advice from university stakeholders, as articulated in this resolution, either through the President or directly to the Board through processes and channels established by the Board.

The Board, in its Bylaws and Board Policy on Committees, authorizes the creation of ad hoc committees to address specific topics from time to time. As appropriate, representatives of faculty, staff, student body may be asked to participate in these ad hoc committees to provide their expertise and perspective.

b. President, Officers, and Administrators

The President, as the University's chief executive officer and president of the faculty, is responsible for directing the affairs of the University, provided the President's actions are consistent with the law, and Policies and actions of the Board, including, the Board Policy on Delegation of Authority. The President, officers, and administrators have as a primary responsibility the duty to promote collaboration and to encourage faculty and staff in the performance of their duties related to teaching, learning, student and institutional support, professional development, scholarly work and research, and community services.

The President has primary responsibility for communicating with and making recommendations to the Board. The Board expects the President, as appropriate, to provide meaningful opportunity for duly elected or appointed representative of the Faculty Senate, Administrative Council, and ASOIT, to offer input and advice on the President's recommendations. This includes but is not limited to the President's recommendations concerning the University's budget, tuition and fee schedule, strategic plan, and mission statement.

The President also has primary authority for the approval of University Policies that define the expectations or requirements for university units and functions, as outlined in the Board Policy on Policies. The Board expects duly elected or appointed representatives of Faculty Senate, Administrative Council, and the ASOIT to participate in the President's Council to offer input and advice on university policies.

In presenting recommendations to the Board for Board action, the President is encouraged to present a balanced discussion that reflects feedback from the aforementioned constituent groups where there is a clear and consistent voice that may differ from the President's conclusion. While the Board recognizes that the President may need to make recommendations to the Board that may not hold the support of a significant number of constituents of the university community, the Board should hear both sides of the discussion before a final decision can be made.

c. Faculty Senate

The Board reaffirms the faculty's central role in the development and stewardship of the University's academic mission, consistent with Oregon law and the Board policy on Delegation of Authority, and as outlined in the Faculty Constitution and Charter of the Faculty Senate. The faculty, in conjunction with the President and the Provost, is responsible for:

- i. academic standards relating to admission to study at the university;
- ii. curriculum, curricular materials, method of instruction, grading, credits, and academic standards of the University; and
- iii. standards of student competence in a discipline.

The Board also expects that the faculty will have substantial participation and input into the development of new academic degree programs and significant changes to academic degree programs before they reach the Board for consideration and approval and, as appropriate, transmission to the Higher Education Coordinating Commission for approval.

The Board recognizes the Faculty Senate as the internal representative body to the faculty. To set forth its internal processes for participating in shared governance, the Oregon Tech Faculty Senate is authorized, consistent with law and the Policies and actions of the Board, to formulate a statement of internal governance expressed as a constitution or in another appropriate format. The statement of internal governance must be consistent with applicable law and the Policies and actions of the Board and is subject to approval by the President in their role as President of the faculty. The President convenes and presides over the faculty and is authorized to veto any decision of the Faculty Senate. Notwithstanding the President's statutory role as president of the faculty, the faculty's statement of internal governance may provide for a member of the faculty to serve as the Faculty Senate's president or chair. The statement of internal governance is subject to amendment by the Board after notice to and consultation with the President and the Faculty Senate. Subject to the approval of the President, the statement of internal governance may also be amended as provided for in the statement of internal governance statement, but no more often than annually.

Faculty Senate shall appoint no more than three members of faculty to hold membership on the Governance Committee.

d. Administrative Council

The Board recognizes the Administrative Council as the internal representative body of the Oregon Tech unrepresented, unclassified, administrative staff. In order to set forth its internal processes for participating in shared governance, the Administrative Council is authorized, consistent with law and the policies and action of the Board, to formulate a statement of internal governance expressed as a constitution or in another appropriate format. The statement of informal governance must be consistent with applicable law and the policies and action of the Board.

- e. Associated Students of Oregon Institute of Technology (“ASOIT”)

The Board recognizes the ASOIT as the representation of the student government. To set forth its internal processes for participating in shared governance, the ASOIT is authorized consistent with law and policies and actions of the Board, to formulate a statement of internal governance expressed as a constitution or in another appropriate format. The statement of internal governance must be consistent with applicable law and the policies and action of the Board.

Section 4

Communication

a. The Board will, consistent with its Board Policy on the Conduct of Public Meetings, reserve a specific time for one duly elected representative from each of the Faculty Senate, Administrative Council, and ASOIT to address the Board on any matter of concern facing the faculty, staff, or students respectively.

b. As appropriate, the Board may include representatives of the faculty, staff, or student body in relevant work retreats by the Board.

c. The Board expects the University’s president to meet personally with the duly elected chair or president of the Faculty Senate, Administrative Counsel, and ASOIT regularly, but preferably at least monthly, to ensure open communication and prompt discussion and consideration of matter of concern.

Section 5

Performance Evaluation

In evaluating the job performance of the President, the Board will consider the President’s commitment to shared governance as described in this Board resolution.

Section 6

This Revision shall take effect immediately upon approval by the Board.

Approved on the 24th day of August, 2022

DocuSigned by:

John Davis

Chair of the Board, John Davis

Moved by: Trustee Stefan Bird

Seconded by: Trustee Fred Ziari

Unanimously approved by all Trustees present.

Attest:
DocuSigned by:
Dave Groff
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Interim Secretary of the Board

I, David P. Groff, Interim Secretary of the Board, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of Amended Resolution No. 15-2 duly approved by the Oregon Institute of Technology Board of Trustees at the Special Meeting held on the 24th day of August, 2022, and thereafter approved and signed by the Acting Chair and attested by the Secretary of the Board.

DocuSigned by:
Dave Groff
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Interim Secretary of the Board