
Academic Quality and Student Success Committee Minutes

Trustees Present:

Jeremy Brown, Chair

Phong Nguyen

Kelley Minty

Nagi Naganathan (*ex officio*)**Trustees Unable to Attend:**

Kathleen Hill

Jill Mason

Celia Nunez

Other Trustees in Attendance:

John Davis

University Staff and Faculty Present in person:

Abdy Afjeh, Vice Provost-Research & Academic Affairs

Ken Fincher, Vice President University Advancement & Interim Board Secretary

Erin Foley, Vice President of Student Affairs & Dean of Students

David Groff, General Counsel

John Harman, Vice President Finance & Administration

Joanna Mott, Provost & VP of Academic Affairs

Adria Paschal, Senior Executive Assistant to the President

Dan Peterson, Dean College of Health, Arts & Sciences

Lori Garrard, Executive Assistant to VP of University Advancement

Bryan Wada, Information Technology Consultant 2

Thomas Arce, Director of Student Involvement and Belonging/Interim Director of Career Services

Zoé Smiley, New Student Programs Coordinator

Correne Cleland, Administrative Program Assistant

Shawni Cayetano Ramos, Assistant Director of Diversity & Belonging

1. Call to Order/Roll/Declaration of a Quorum, Chair Jeremy Brown

Chair Brown called the meeting to order at 11:04 am. The Board Secretary called roll, and there was not a quorum.

2. Consent Agenda Chair Jeremy Brown**2.1 Approve Minutes of the January 25, 2023 Meeting**

Minutes approval is postponed

3. Reports

3.1 **Provost's Report** *Provost and VP for Academic Affairs and Strategic Enrollment Management Dr. Joanna Mott*

- **Dr. Mott** reviewed her PowerPoint presentation and advised that the NWCCU 7-year accreditation site visit will occur on April 24-27.
- **Dr. Mott** reviewed staffing in leadership positions and faculty.
- **Dr. Mott** reviewed current initiatives, including Academic Master Plan, Academic Programs, and Accreditations. She talked about equipment funds and student and faculty innovation grants.
- **Dr. Mott** shared college updates, including their focus, collaborative efforts, and teaching accomplishments, updates from the Registrar's Office and Online Education.
- **Dr. Mott** stated that Financial Aid received all the "early" aid packets sooner than usual. Tribal grants as well as considerable other scholarship monies have been awarded.
- **Dr. Mott** provided an update on educational partnerships and outreach (EPO), advising and retention, and admissions.
- **Trustee Nguyen** asked if there was a firm date to complete faculty searches. Dr. Mott advised that the hiring process must move forward quickly while there is no search deadline. Hiring people late in the cycle is not successful in retention, and it is better to hire someone as a visiting professor at that time.
- **Chair Brown** asked about the DPT program, and Dr. Mott advised that we plan on starting the program this summer and have interviewed applicants. The classes are set up, and the goal is to start on time.
- **Chair Brown** asked about the status of the new academic programs. **Dr. Mott** advised that there is an agenda item. The two Natural Sciences programs are moving through; at least one will be brought forward in June.
- **Chair Brown** asked about under-enrolled programs and if action should be taken for them to be reconsidered. **Dr. Mott** advised this is part of the academic master plan, and program reviews will be conducted. They are also revisiting the names of programs to make them more identifiable to potential students.
- **Chair Brown** asked about dual enrollment and what Oregon Tech is doing to get students to commit to Oregon Tech. Dr. Mott advised there is more outreach to the high schools with dual-enrolled students and other processes in place.
- **Trustee Nguyen** commented that the Portland Metro campus has a task force regarding dual credit students, and there is an initiative to bring in the students.

3.2 **Student Affairs** *Vice President of Student Affairs and Dean of Students Dr. Erin Foley*

- **Dr. Foley** recognized her student affairs staff and their accomplishments.
- **Dr. Foley** advised that ASOIT held elections for next year's officers. The Klamath Falls ASOIT had a successful Black Out for Hunger drive.
- Our athletic teams have been successful. There is a search underway for a new women's basketball coach. The track team's season is off to a good start. Baseball is having an unprecedented successful season, and softball is number one in the country.

- **Dr. Foley** commended campus safety for continuing to meet campus needs.
- Career Services have held multiple career fairs as well as an etiquette dinner for students.
- College Union staff have been hosting large events with success.
- Disability services have staffing needs.
- Housing and Residence Life is selecting new staff for next year.
- Student Health has a significant increase in new student cases and crises.
- Portland Metro has gained new staff filling many needs on that campus.
- Student Involvement and Belonging is providing more clubs and events.
- Graduation and end-of-year celebrations are being planned.
- Veterans Services met with Kingsley Field to better serve veteran students.
- **Chair Brown** asked about the food bank situation in the Portland Metro campus. **Dr. Foley** stated it is a food pantry, and food is available for students. There is a pantry on both campuses. It is funded through a Foundation account and student funds.
- **Chair Brown** asked about staffing on the Klamath Falls and Portland Metro campuses. **Dr. Foley** stated she feels that Oregon Tech's vacancies are comparable to other universities but feels that Oregon Tech takes too long in its hiring process. We are possibly losing good candidates due to the location of the Klamath Falls campus, the hiring timeline, salary offers, and people wanting to work remotely. **Dr. Mott** added that there had been several positions filled recently by people who wanted to be in a rural setting in Oregon because they knew someone or have family in the area.

(Lunch Break at 11:57 am)

(Meeting reconvened at 12:30 pm)

4. Action Items

None

5. Discussion Items

5.1 Student Involvement and Belonging (SIB) *Thomas Arce, Shawni Cayetano-Ramos, and Zoé Smiley*

- **Thomas Arce** presented and shared about SIB's areas of engagement and their connection to the Oregon Tech Strategic Plan.
- **Zoé Smiley** reviewed new student programs that include new student orientation. SIB conducted an assessment with first-year students to gather data. Based on the assessment SIB changed its programming this year, and orientation was more successful.
- **Shawni Cayetano-Ramos** presented about the Leadership and Diversity Scholarship. She shared about requirements and how they built the curriculum to make scholarship recipients more successful.
- **President Naganathan** stated he was part of the new student orientation and commented on the new energy and programs that have been created.
- **Chair Brown** stated that sometimes we see a disconnect between a student being admitted and their arrival on campus and encouraged the SIB staff to continue their efforts and progress.
- **Trustee Nguyen** asked about the two campuses and what differences are being addressed to make both locations successful. **Cayetano-Ramos** stated how they work with

personnel on the Portland Metro campus. SIB staff travel to both campuses to conduct workshops. They attempt to mirror activities performed on the Klamath Falls campus on the Portland Metro campus.

- **Trustee Nguyen** asked which campus is more diverse and if that information is tracked. **Cayetano-Ramos** advised that there are many different diversities other than race, and being a non-traditional student is typically the focus on the Portland Metro campus. **Thomas Arce** stated that Dr. Jennifer Wilson from DICE has been doing institutional-level work related to data equity. A piece that she is working with committees on is looking at how we engage with demographic data.
- **Trustee Brown** asked about the online student population and about making them feel more involved as an Oregon Tech student and part of the community. **Arce** stated there is a "week of welcome" program that happens each term for online students.

5.2 Overview of Oregon Tech Programmatic Accreditations *Provost Mott, Dean Peterson, and Interim Dean Afjeh*

- **Dr. Mott** provided background on the accreditation of programs at Oregon Tech.
- **Dr. Afjeh** stated all the programs in the ETM college have met accreditation requirements.
- **Dr. Mott** advised that it is unusual for a university to have this many agencies for accreditation. This presentation is about giving an overview of the extent of accreditation that Oregon Tech is involved with.
- **Chair Brown** asked if there were conversations about the necessity of accreditation. **Dr. Mott** stated that many of Oregon Tech's programs, if not accredited, would affect students' ability to obtain jobs because they are not coming out of an accredited program. She advised they have not had conversations about not continuing accreditation because they are almost all very specialized areas. Accreditation has been deemed appropriate for our institution. **Dr. Afjeh** stated that in some programs (such as Geomatics and Civil Engineering), the graduates need to be licensed to practice in their field, which only comes from an accredited program.
- **Trustee Nguyen** stated that from a faculty perspective, accreditation keeps them honest and has helped them do the right thing even when someone is not looking.
- **President Naganathan** stated that accreditation helps Oregon Tech continue to meet programmatic requirements.

5.3 Course Modality Survey *ASOIT PM President Billy Kimmel*

- **Billy Kimmel** shared that ASOIT surveyed students about course modality, scheduling, and resources students seek. There was a 22% response rate from Portland Metro students.
- **Kimmel** reviewed survey results and recommendations. They included in-person lecture options, availability of open-source materials, recorded and shared lectures, and scheduling courses earlier in the day with increased consistency to make it easier for students to make long-term plans.
- **President Naganathan** asked Kimmel if there have been any reactions to the survey results. **Kimmel** advised no one has tried to refute the results.
- **Trustee Nguyen** stated that his experience as a faculty member on the Portland Metro campus backs up the survey results.
- **Professor Bickford** suggested getting data points on which classes are most often canceled due to lack of attendance. It would help to answer more questions about modality.

- **Trustee Brown** commented on the concept of why a student goes to class. He asked if attending the lecture in person is an added value and if practical demonstrations of the material exist. He discussed the concept of the inverted learning model and stated that reengineering the learning process might force a student to attend the class.

5.4 Update on New Programs *Provost Mott*

- **Dr. Mott** introduced Professor Nate Bickford to talk about the new programs.
- **Professor Bickford** stated that the Masters in Natural Resources had requested edits which were done and resubmitted. All of the steps have been completed, and they hope they will be presented at the next board meeting. Local agencies are overly eager to have graduate students in this area.
- The second new program is Masters in Bio Health. It has been to the grad council with revisions requested and resubmitted with edits. There are thesis and non-thesis options.
- **Dr. Mott** advised that they also develop a Master's in Dental Therapy. She referred to some programmatic challenges, and they do not have a timeline yet.
- **Dr. Mott** provided updates on other outstanding new programs development.
- **Trustee Brown** encouraged her to reach out to the local community to identify what needs can be met and be strategic on what new programs Oregon Tech can do that will have a local resonance or an opportunity to develop a strategic advantage that other universities are not doing.

6. Other Business/New Business – *Chair Jeremy Brown*

None

7. Adjournment

Adjournment: 2:02 pm

Respectfully submitted,



Dr. Ken Fincher

Vice President University Advancement & Interim Board Secretary

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