
Board of Trustees Meeting MINUTES

Trustees Present:

Jessica Gomez, Chair	Nagi Naganathan, President	Rose McClure
Jeremy Brown	Paul Stewart (remote)	Jill Mason
Tim Hasty	Mike Starr	Kelley Minty-Morris
Kathleen Hill	Michelle Vitali	Nagi Naganathan, President
Vince Jones (remote)	Fred Ziari	
Rose McClure	Lisa Graham	

Trustees Unable to Attend:

Trustee Mike Starr

University Staff and Faculty Present:

Abdy Afjeh, Vice Provost – Research & Academic Affairs
Taylor Burke, Associate Dean of Students/Director of Career Services
Carl Agrifoglio, Operations Manager & Systems Administrator-Information Technology Services
Rebecca Burkeen, Administrative Council
Erin Foley, Vice President & Dean of Students
Ken Fincher, Vice President-Institutional Advancement
David Groff, General Counsel & Interim Board Secretary
Pam Grove, Assistant to University General Counsel & Interim Board Secretary
Hance Haney, Jessica Gomez For Governor
John Harman, Vice President Finance & Administration
Tom Keyser, Dean College of Engineering, Technology & Management
Billy Kimmel, ASOIT Officer, Portland-Metro
Brie Landis, ASOIT President, Klamath Falls
Kelsey McCauley, Government Relations
Joanna Mott, Provost and VP for Academic Affairs and Strategic Enrollment Management
Adria Paschal, Senior Executive Assistant to the President
Dan Peterson, Dean College of Health, Arts & Sciences
Justin Ringle, ASOIT Officer, Portland-Metro
Terri Torres, Faculty Senate President
Bryan Wada, Consultant 2-Information Technology Services
Jack Zoucha, ASOIT President, Portland-Metro

1. Call to Order/Roll/Declaration of a Quorum

Chair Gomez called the meeting to order at 1:25pm. The Board Secretary called roll and a quorum was declared.

2. Reports

2.1 President Naganathan reviewed his PowerPoint presentation included in the agenda report. He reported on Covid19 and academic planning; on winter 2022 versus winter 2021 enrollment; the campus climate assessment; legislative priorities and the 2022 session. He shared an update on the Foundation and Alumni mid-year report, Giving Tuesday, Give a Hoot Day and the return of Fireside Chats. Dr. Nagi acknowledged 2021 holiday celebrations, the students making the President's and Dean's List; Oregon Tech's athletic achievements despite the challenges of Covid19; Oregon Tech's first chapter of Alpha Epsilon Delta; and Dr. Jherime Kellermann's published article in Oregon Birds magazine about rare Yellow Rail bird species in Oregon. He also provided an update on the CEET building, the upcoming renovation Boivin Hall, and the status of funding for the new residence hall.

2.2 ASOIT

KF-ASOIT: President Brie Landis reported ASOIT is transitioning new ASOIT officers and some projects have been put on hold. The ASOIT met and discussed definitions and expectations on Resolution 15-2 on shared governance with the Portland-Metro and Klamath Falls ASOIT, the student body at large and the Faculty Senate. She also shared that the ASOIT is soliciting students for commissions and committees, and is seeking representation regarding the Academic Master Plan, Communication Master Plan, the New Residence Hall, and the Campus Climate Assessment. President Landis reported she is working with Dr. Mott to find enrollment and retention trends, and the faculty turnover which is affecting student outlook and retention. She also discussed a student petition being circulated since September 2021

PM-ASOIT: President Jack Zoucha discussed campus involvement by creating a community feeling on campus. He noted Covid has been a challenge, leading to a lack of activities; ASOIT is working on solutions such as club/event sponsorship, open doors, free food/coffee. He shared that there is a push to collaborate with other universities and student leaders at an upcoming Oregon SGA Conference, which is a solution-based conference, focused on accepting/overcoming common problems. President Zoucha also discussed the Portland-Metro housing rental market and the high rental cost and declining vacancy rate, as well as housing insecurity among college students.

2.3 Administrative Council – no report

2.4 Strategic Enrollment Management

Provost Mott addressed winter term compared to last year's winter retention. She advised that for the winter term the numbers are down about 8.9%, but that the change is in the dual credit/high school ACP which almost doubled to approximately 1,400, bringing the overall headcount up 3.2%. Dr. Mott advised that in terms of credit hours, we are down about 7.7% and overall with dual credit we are down about 2.5%. She noted that new student retention fall to winter 2019-2022 is between 94%-95% of new freshmen and new

transfers., and admits. Transfer students are a challenge and are down about 20% at Klamath Falls, and 23% at Portland-Metro.

2.5 Faculty Senate President Terri Torres

President Torres noted that there has been great progress in Faculty Senate as stated in November. Provost Mott, the Senate Executive Committee, and Faculty Senate have been able to work together to reshape Faculty Senate in a way that allows it to move forward on the tasks. President Torres addressed striving for engagement at Oregon Tech, goals presented at convocation, international recognition, attempts to connect and resolve deep scars from the strike, the need for townhalls in order ask questions of the President, the need for progress on policy changes, and for the President's Council to meet, an outdated education program, and the concerning faculty turn over rate. She said the Faculty Senate asks the board to have informal meetings with faculty and students; and that the board ask good questions that motivates action and then ask for results.

2.6 **COVID-19 – Dr. Foley** introduced Taylor Burke as Oregon Tech's new Associate Dean of Students and Director of Career Services. She reported the Covid landscape continues to change regularly in response to new variants, and the U.S. Supreme Court recently blocked enforcement of the federal OSHA Vaccination and Temporary Emergency Standard, and Oregon OSHA will continue to monitor federal OSHA activities and respond as needed. Dr. Foley noted Oregon OSHA maintains a rule put into place over a year ago, which includes infection control planning, exposure, risk management, sanitation, notification as well as requirement to use facial coverings indoors, and Oregon Tech is in compliance with all of these precautions. Dr. Foley reported during Fall of 2021, Oregon Tech had a total of 88 reported positive cases across all campuses. She noted since January 23, 2022, Oregon Tech has had 244 reported positive cases. Students and staff that have been exposed or have symptoms in addition to those positive cases is 619 people.

2.7 **Legislative** – written report in the agenda packet.

2.8 Academic Quality and Student Success Committee

Committee Chair Brown summarized the reports and presentations made at the AQSS Committee meeting. He discussed the number of faculty vacancies, the number of searches, as well as student-faculty ratios, the number of faculty tenure-track and non-tenure track. Chair Brown reported on student data with respect to enrollment management, and the excellent work being done in terms of student retention at close to 90%. He acknowledged the men's basketball team perfect record. Chair Brown remarked the GPA in the student housing community is averaging 3.16, and that there are many students up to a GPA of 4.0. Chair Brown noted initiatives and programs that are taking place, such as presented by Carleen Drago, the Director of Educational Partnerships and Outreach who discussed the MESA project which is a partnership with local high schools and middle schools for improving achievement in math, engineering and science students. He advised currently within academics, there are currently 71 budgeted vacancies, and 43 actively advertised vacancies.

2.9 Finance and Facilities Committee

Committee Chair Jones summarized the Vice President of Finance & Administration's reports, including updates on capital projects, the FY 2022 management report, the FY 2021-2022 internal audit update, tuition development process preview, student housing project, and the status of the FY 2021 financial report and audit. He noted VP Harman gave a report on the tuition setting process, which is beginning with the first meeting scheduled for January 21, and a recommendation to be brought to the Board by President Naganathan at the April 2022 meeting.

2.10 Executive Committee – did not meet

3. Consent Agenda

3.1 Approval of the Minutes of the November 18, 2021 Meeting

No changes voiced. Minutes approved as submitted.

4. Discussion Items

4.1 Student Housing - VP Harman reported that the key assumptions for the approved project have changed since the April 2021 Board of Trustees meeting. Construction costs have risen by 25-30% which will require an additional \$15 million or a reduction of the number of suite style beds from 850 to 450-500. It will be necessary to reevaluate assumptions integral to the project and pursue additional due diligence in identifying other options.

5. Other Matters - None

6. Public Comment –

Billy Kimmel, a third-year student in Renewable Energy Program (Portland-Metro) spoke about transparency. He said an example is the general catalog lists renewable energy and engineering electives such as electricity markets and green building, but there is no longer the faculty to teach them. He said a simple statement should be sent out to the university indicating that the university is aware of the problems, without placing blame and without using external justifications. He said students won't stay at a university where there's a mismatch between their perception and the reality of their experience here.

Meeting was adjourned at 3:52pm.

Respectfully submitted,



David P. Groff

University General Counsel & Interim Board Secretary

EXECUTIVE SESSION OF THE BOARD The Board met in Executive Session Executive Session per ORS 192.660(2)(f) and ORS 40.225 Rule 503 to consider information or records that are exempt by law from public inspection, including attorney-client privileged communication.