

| POSITION                              | TERM    | NAME            | DEPARTMENT/DIVISION           |
|---------------------------------------|---------|-----------------|-------------------------------|
| Chair                                 | 2021-24 | Don DaSaro      | Business Management           |
| Provost and Vice President            | 2022-23 | Joanna Mott     | Academic Affairs              |
| Vice President                        | 2022-23 | John Harman     | Finance and Administration    |
| Vice President                        | 2022-23 | Erin Foley      | Student Affairs               |
| Vice Provost                          | 2022-23 | Abdy Afjeh      | Research and Academic Affairs |
| Administrative Council Representative | 2022-23 | Carleen Drago   | Alumni Relations              |
| AVP of Finance & Controller           | 2021-24 | Alicia Dillon   | Financial Operations          |
| Senate Executive Representative       | 2022-23 | Yuehai Yang     | Faculty Senate                |
| Administrative Staff Representative 1 | 2022-23 | Ken Fincher     | University Advancement        |
| Administrative Staff Representative 2 | 2020-23 | Ken Sartain     | Academic Affairs              |
| Administrative Staff Representative 3 | 2021-24 | Mandi Clark     | Housing and Residence Life    |
| Faculty 1                             | 2022-25 | Rose McClure    | Natural Sciences              |
| Faculty 2                             | 2022-25 | Mark Neupert    | Humanities & Social Science   |
| Faculty 3                             | 2022-25 | David Hammond   | Applied Mathematics           |
| Faculty 4                             | 2021-24 | Dibyajyoti Deb  | Applied Mathematics           |
| Klamath Falls ASOIT Representative    | 2022-23 | Diana Escamilla | ASOIT                         |
| Portland-Metro ASOIT Representative   | 2022-23 | Nawaf AlWahaibi | ASOIT                         |
| Executive Assistant                   | 2022-23 | Celia Green     | Finance and Administration    |

## Minutes

**Attendance:** Don DaSaro, John Harman, Erin Foley, Carleen Drago, Yuehai Yang, Ken Fincher, Mandi Clark, Rose McClure, Mark Neupert, David Hammond, Dibyajyoti Deb, Michelle Meyer

**Meeting call to order** – Chair DaSaro Called the meeting to order at 4:00pm.

1. **Review Minutes from January 2023 Meeting** – Professor McClure moved to approve the minutes; Professor Yang seconded the motion.
2. **February Financial Report** – Vice President Harman presented the February financial report.
  - a. Professor McClure commented that the salary savings, while good for the bottom line, is not beneficial to OT. Several staff members are doing more than one job and we are short faculty in important areas. VP Harman agreed that being short on faculty and staff is not beneficial.
  - b. Professor Hammond stated that he was surprised with the services and supplies budget and actual numbers. VP Harman explained that the variance between budget and actual can be a bit obscured by the \$5.0M special item funding that has been underspent. The S&S budget for this year includes the one-time line-item funding for rural health and applied computing initiatives and received from the state during last fiscal year. Since Academic Affairs had not yet finalized a specific spending plan at the time the budget was approved last year, \$5M of the \$5.5M was budgeted to be available in the S&S category for the current year. Some of that has already been spent through budgeted capital accounts for about \$900K in equipment purchases earlier this year. Additional spending under the initiatives are still being developed and will not be spent out completely this fiscal year as was originally budgeted and has resulted in savings.

- c. Professor Deb asked about the email Professor DaSaro sent out regarding the budget and potential hiring freezes. Was this email sent out before or after these numbers were in? VP Harman said performance to budget this year is better than expected. VP Harman pointed out it is important to clarify that the budget letter to campus did not indicate a freeze on filling position. If positions are budgeted, then they can be recruited and filled. One of the primary goals in developing the FY 2023-24 budget is to not impact people or programs. The letter did say that we might have to budget additional salary savings and that we will implement a 1.9% spending reduction for FY 2023-24, but that will not affect faculty and staff positions. The reductions are to come from S&S. That is not to say we don't need to be strategic when filling vacant budgeted positions. We should assess whether our needs have changed and if a position should be modified before recruiting in order to address evolving needs.
- d. Professor Deb stated that in Faculty Senate, they were told that Oregon Tech has a several million-dollar budget deficit for FY 2023-24. VP Harman indicated that some inaccurate information may be circulating, but its origin is not known. VP Harman and FOAC Chair Don DaSaro met with Faculty Senate President Torres last week to answer questions regarding the FY 2023-24 budget approach. The deficit is expected to be bridged with about \$3M from reserve and \$1.3M in spending reductions. The tuition increase of 4.9% will also help in covering the deficit.
- e. VP Harman explained the university's historic annual budgeting process which begins with the previous year's "perm budget" and is the starting point for the initial budget build. For a number of years OT has budgeted a percentage of estimated salary savings knowing there will be vacant positions throughout the year. VP Harman shared that he and AVP Alicia Dillon have been discussing OT's historic budgeting approach and whether some adjustment toward a hybrid approach would be beneficial in the future.
- f. Professor Yang asked what the other universities in Oregon are doing to manage the overall decline in enrollment. VP Harman stated that the TRU's are all experiencing enrollment shortfalls. U of O and OSU are the only schools who are not experiencing enrollment declines. The two Bigs appear to be modifying their admission requirements and casting a wider net to attract more students. We suspect that hurts Oregon Tech as students who may have chosen to attend OT may be attending U of O or OSU instead.
- g. Professor Neupert asked if the OSU Cascades campus is growing. VP Harman said yes, it is. VP Harman continued by sharing that there is concern that the Cascades campus offers engineering and are expanding to include health programs as well.
- h. Carleen Drago asked if there have been any conversations at the state level about additional support for all state institutions. VP Harman said there have been some conversations with the state and HECC about issues the TRU's are facing. It is still unknown how long the state-wide downturn in enrollment will last. OT's enrollment strategy will be strategic, proactive and focused on positioning OT for long term growth.

3. **2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter Investment Report** - Vice President Harman presented the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter investment report.

4. **State Budget Outlook** – Vice President Harman presented the state budget outlook.

- a. Professor DaSaro asked if there was any hope of obtaining additional funding from the state. VP Harman said that those conversations are going through the Oregon Council of Presidents (OCOP). Dr. Nagi has been having meetings with multiple legislators over the past several months in Salem. We still do not know if the state will provide more funding than what is in the co-chairs budget which is at best a 5.4% increase over the 2021-23 biennium. This falls short of required CSL which is based on inflation. The state appears to have the capacity to increase funding but there are also multiple competing priorities at the state level.

5. **FY 2023-24 Budget Update** – Vice President Harman presented the FY2023-24 budget update.
6. **Tuition Recommendation Committee Update** – Vice President Harman reviewed the just completed Tuition Recommendation Committee process and recommendation for a 5% increase in base tuition and fees..
  - a. Professor Deb asked if our out-of-state tuition is too high as it is a larger increase in tuition between in-state and out-of-state compared to some other institutions. U of O seems like their in-state and out-of-state tuition rates are about the same. VP Harman said we'll need to double check the chart to ensure it is accurate for U of O. He also mentioned the tuition setting process at U of O where tuition is set for six years for incoming freshmen. OT may evaluate a similar tuition model in the future to see if it would be an attractive option.
  - b. VP Fincher asked how WUE is factored into tuition. VP Harman said that for out-of-state students covered under WUE, they pay 150% of in-state tuition. VP Harman was not sure if the WUE percentage is the same at all universities participating in that program.
  - c. Professor Neupert asked about student fee rates. Fees are also a major impact on the overall amount students pay. Are the fees at Humboldt, for example, high enough that when you factor those in, the cost of our higher tuition evens out the difference? VP Harman shared that our fees are set to cover costs and many are determined by students through the Incidental Fees Committee (IFC). We would have to look at the websites for other institutions to see what their fees are in order to have a comparative.
7. **Geothermal Funding Request** – Vice President Harman discussed the geothermal funding request that will be presented to a joint committee of the legislature later this week. This project is related to the Klamath Fall's geothermal campus heat and hot water system; the geothermal system is the sole source for heat and hot water on the campus. The system is now 60 years old and is experiencing more frequent and pervasive breakdowns and interruptions in service which could present an imminent risk of failure along with significant life safety risks. Separately, and not to be confused with the campus geothermal infrastructure system funding request to the legislature, there is a renewed interest in trying to bring the old JCI/OT geothermal electric power generating plant back on line. A federal grant has also been submitted related to this initiative. Each of these geothermal projects is separate from the other. Potential state funding for the geothermal Klamath Falls campus heat and hot water system is unrelated to the large power plant.
8. **Other-** VP Harman provided a brief overview of progress on OT's capital construction progress. More detailed information will be presented to the Facilities Planning Commission.
  - a. Dr. Neupert mentioned that OMIC thus far has not increased the branding of OT. There is no mention of OT on their website or at the site. VP Harman stated that he and Dr. Afjeh have been discussing the need for physical signage at the OMIC location and to increase OT branding at the Scappoose site. Marketing and Facilities departments would need to be part of the conversation regarding how to proceed.

**Meeting adjournment** – Chair DaSaro adjourned the meeting at 5:06pm