Meeting of the Oregon Tech Board of Trustees
Klamath Falls Campus and via TEAMS
Friday, January 17, 2025
9:00 am – 12:30 pm

Trustees in Attendance:

Chair Davis
Vice Chair Jones
Trustee Amuchastegui
Trustee Bird
Trustee Dhir
Trustee Early
Trustee Vitali
Trustee Gopalpur
Trustee Hill
Trustee Neupert
Trustee Nunez
Trustee Starr
Trustee Dentinger, non-voting member
President Nagi Naganathan, ex-officio/non-voting

Trustees not in attendance:

Trustee Gentry
Trustee Cauble

University Staff, Visitors, and Faculty in person:
Dr. Abdy Afjeh, Vice Provost for Research and Academic Affairs
Dr. Neslihan Alp, Dean, College of ETM
Dr. Ruth Claire Black, Dean of Online Education & Global Engagement
Dr. Mandi Clark, Vice President of Student Affairs
Dr. Hesham El-Rewini, Provost & VP for Academic Affairs & SEM
Alicia Dillon, Associate Vice President-Controller
Michelle Meyer, Director of Audit and Compliance
Dr. Ken Fincher, Vice President of University Advancement & Board Secretary
Uriel Aquilar Torres, KF-ASOIT
Ryland White PM-ASOIT
Bryce Wilson PM-ASOIT
David Groff, Esq., General Counsel
John Harman, Vice President Finance & Administration
Dr. Jennifer Wilson, Director of Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion
Dr. Michelle Preston, Assistant Dean, HAS
Dr. Beverly McCreary, Associate Vice Provost of Faculty Relations
Dr. Yuehai Yang, President OIT Faculty Senate
Dr. Nate Bickford, Interim-Dean, College of HAS
Dr. Kari Lundgren, OT-AAUP
Alicia Jones, OT-SEIU
Bryan Wada, Information Technology Consultant 2
Dr. Greg Stringer, Associate Vice Provost, Strategic Enrollment Management
Suzanne Kunse, Associate VP of Government & Community Relations

Shane O'Brien, Associate Director of Government & Community Relations
Matthew Cash, Student presenter
Dario Wong, Student presenter
Aden Ratliff, Student presenter
Elsa Peterson, Student presenter
Alan Polaski, Foundation President
Brian Caufield, Esq., Director of Labor Relations Services, USSE

1. **Welcome and Call to Order/Roll/Declaration of a Quorum (9:01 am)** *Chair John Davis*

   Chair Davis called the meeting to order. He commented on the reasons for the meeting being virtual and expressed his appreciation for those attending. Chair Davis announced the meeting theme of *Strategic Directions for a Vibrant Future*. He reviewed the agenda and instructions on public comments. Board Secretary Fincher took the role, and a quorum was declared.

2. **Public Comment & Regular Reports**

   2.1 Public comments were made by OT-AAUP Union President Dr. Kari Lundgren, OT-SEIU Union President Alicia Jones, and students Matthew Cash, Dario Wong, Aden Ratliff, and Elsa Peterson, who requested more music opportunities at OIT.

   2.2 Reports from Shared Governance Organizations included ASOIT reports from President Uriel Aguilar Torres of the Klamath Falls campus, and President Ryland White & Vice President Bryce Wilson of the Portland Metro campus. OIT Faculty Senate President Dr. Yuehai Yang provided a Faculty-Senate report, and a report from Admin Council Co-Chairs Gaylyn Mauer and Carl Agrifoglio was also presented.

   2.3 Oregon Tech Foundation President Alan Polaski provided an update from the foundation and answered progress-related and fundraising questions. He noted the foundation's fundraising results and noted the gala, Give-A-Hoot Day and other capital notes and projects.

3. **Special Reports and Discussion Items**

   3.1 2025 Oregon Legislative Session Update was provided by
   Associate VP of Government & Community Relations Suzanne Kunse and Associate Director of Government & Community Relations Shane O'Brien. Dr. Nagi introduced the new legislative relations team. Their report included legislative leaders, the governor's top priorities, legislators' priorities, OCOP 25-27 state priorities, OIT capital projects (Semon and LRC), and OIT's specific state priorities. Kunse also reviewed federal funding priorities and explained the challenges with the current appropriations process. She discussed the FY 2026 process and the submission process. Chair Davis requested O'Brien and Kunse to provide a brief background.

4. **Board of Trustees Committee Reports**

   4.1 Dr. Nagi Naganathan provided a president's report. Dr. Naganathan reviewed enrollment data, faculty research grants, and capital projects. He also reviewed and provided an update on institutional goals, including freshman growth, retention of new undergraduate students, raising $5m in the annual and capital campaign (he also reviewed the fieldhouse project), the space utilization plan, and launching a health and wellness initiative which includes rural healthcare and a school of medicine. He recognized Trustee Cauble for his leadership and the members of OHSU who met with the Oregon Tech team. He closed by noting the strategic plan and that the time is near to revisit the strategic planning process.

4.2 The Academic Quality and Student Success Committee report was provided by AQSS Committee Co-Chairs Amuchastegui and Nuńez. Trustees Nuńez and Amuchastegui encouraged all trustees to review the materials from the AQSS committee meeting. They shared that Dr. El-Rewini, our new Provost, provided a "superb" report and expressed their appreciation for having him join the team. They also shared the comprehensive report provided by Dr. Clark. They complimented her report, which included athletics, basic needs, student health and belonging, veterans' affairs, and other ongoing programs at Tech. They also noted the report from Dr. Stringer and the data points related to enrollment, retention, and high school collaboration.

4.3 The Finance and Facilities Committee, also serving as the Audit Committee, report was provided by Committee Chair Jones. Chair Jones provided finance and facilities (also serving as the audit committee. His report recapped the finance and facilities committee meeting, which included reports from FOAC chair Professor Don Desaro which included a recap of the tuition recommendation committee, new programs, and the budget process. Chair Jones shared that VP Harman shared numerous financial reports, including budget reports, dashboards, enrollment, an update on reserve fund needs, and an investment report. Chair Jones shared that all reports at this time look positive. Chair Jones added a report from Thom Darrah was provided, which included the status of the new residential housing project, the geothermal renovation, the applied behavioral analysis clinic, and the campus security camera installation. Chair Jones concluded his report with a review of the audit reports provided by Clifton Larson Allen and Eide Bailly, and the review of the Banner update project by AVP Dillion.

4.4 Board Chair Davis provided the Executive Committee report. The committee met at the end of December to complete Dr. Wilson's Title IX training and to discuss institutional goals, which were discussed earlier in this meeting during Dr. Naganathan's president's report.

5. **Strategic Planning and Vision Discussion** - *Trustees and President Naganathan*

5.1 Review key strategic short-term and long-term goals and strategic investments

- Chair Davis led a discussion on planning and strategic items and invited all trustees to share their thoughts on these and other items. Discussion took place between the trustees related to possible shared costs, compliance, finance, strategic planning, visioning, space utilization, the longevity of Dr. Nagi's service to the university, student success, student retention, faculty retention, the academic master plan and accomplishments thereto, new degree programs, and the role of the new provost.
- Trustee Neupert provided a presentation to the Board titled "Vetting ideas at Oregon Tech." Trustee reviewed a 20-year history of gathering ideas from informants and shared his starting thoughts and questions included in a decision-making model (Mission, Financial Sustainability, and Quality). He provided an example with the Master's in Applied Behavioral Analysis (Big ABA clinic). Trustee Neupert noted a graph indicating "The Danger Zone," wherein problem-solving is needed to ensure all questions are answered appropriately. He closed with a slide related to alignment and entrepreneurial thinking, which provides a clear target for faculty.
- Trustee Neupert's presentation can be found at 2:08:52 in the recorded live stream of the January 17, 2025, video: https://www.oit.edu/trustees/meetings-events/recordings

- Trustees asked questions related to providing affordable education; the success of faculty, staff, and students; culture (team); long-term view of growth (size),: niche; and goals & means. Dr. Nagi shared his thoughts and mentioned the need to continue to review operations, including cost sharing, deferred maintenance, and being fiscally responsible. Trustee Neupert referred to Dr. El-Rewini's report during the AQSS committee meeting related to school closures and mergers and referred to the AGB report. Chair Davis responded to questions and comments made during this session and noted Oregon Tech's distinctiveness. Dr. Nagi added comments related to recent university entrepreneurial actions and the re-invention of university images. Chair Davis also voiced the possible need to begin the process for the university's next strategic plan. Trustee Early expressed his experience with a university merger. Trustee Bird added his confidence in the facilities and student life on campus, efficiencies and continual improvement should be top of mind. Trustee Nuńez added her thoughts on the next strategic plan timing and direction. Chair Davis shared and reviewed the university's mission statement and vision statement.
- Chair Davis added the minutes of the October 2024 meeting for approval. After a discussion, Chair Davis noted the feedback and the minutes were passed by vote, with all present voting aye, no objections, and no abstentions.

7. Additional Discussion and Other Matters

Added to the agenda by the Chair to correct an oversight made by the Board Secretary

- Trustee Early inquired about the medical school and current programs. Dr. Nagi addressed his question and noted, with Chair Davis, new degree programs that will support the medical school program. Trustee Early added that many medical schools develop master's programs that support the medical school entry track.
- Trustee Jones endorsed the comments made earlier by students relating to a music program on campus. Trustee Nuńez also endorsed the music program endeavor. Dr. Clark added she will research the opportunity. Trustee Dentinger called back the conversation related to undergraduate programs and the careful balance of moving forward with master's programs. Trustee Neupert noted past musical performances and his support for music programs. Chair Davis concurred and added some thoughts on additional student engagement opportunities.

8. Executive Session

- **At 12:10 p.m. Chair Davis called the board into executive session and cited:**

The Board will meet in 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, confidential communication subject to attorney-client privilege, and per ORS 192.660(2)(d) to conduct deliberations with persons designated by the governing body to carry on labor negotiations.

- **The board returned from the Executive Session at 1:14 p.m.**

9. Adjournment at 1:16 pm

This meeting can be viewed in its entirety at: https://www.oit.edu/trustees/meetings-events/recordings under the Board of Trustees, Board Meeting – January 17, 2025.