Meeting of the Oregon Tech Board of Trustees
Wilsonville Campus
Friday, April 11, 2025
9:00 AM – 4:30 PM

Trustees present:

Chair John Davis, Esq.
Vice Chair Vince Jones
Cecelia Amuchastegui
Stefan Bird
Dr. Vijay Dhir
Dr. Johnnie Early
Keegan Dentinger, non-voting member
President Nagi Naganathan, ex-officio
Michele Vitali
Kanth Gopalpur
Aaron Hill
Dr. Mark Neupert
David Cauble
Mike Starr
Don Gentry

Trustees not present:

Celia Nunez-Flores

University Faculty, Staff, Students, and Visitors in attendance:

Dr. Abdy Afjeh, Vice Provost for Research and Academic Affairs
Uriel Aguilar Torres, KF-ASOIT
Dr. Neslihan Alp, Dean, College of ETM
Diana Angeli, Executive Assistant, Office of the President
Dr. Nate Bickford, Chair of Natural Sciences and Graduate Programs
Dr. Ruth Claire Black, Dean of Online Education & Global Engagement
Brian Caufield, Esq., Director of Labor Relations Services, USSE
Dr. Mandi Clark, Vice President of Student Affairs
Dr. Hesham El-Rewini, Provost & VP for Academic Affairs & SEM
Dr. Ken Fincher, Vice President of University Advancement, Executive Director, Oregon Tech Foundation, & Board Secretary
David Groff, Esq., General Counsel
John Harman, Vice President Finance & Administration
Suzanne Kunse, Associate VP of Government & Community Relations
Dr. Kari Lundgren, OT-AAUP President
Dr. Beverly McCreary, Associate Vice Provost of Faculty Relations
Michelle Meyer, Director of Audit and Compliance
Shane O'Brien, Associate Director of Government & Community Relations
Alan Polaski, Oregon Tech Foundation President
Dr. Greg Stringer, Associate Vice Provost, Strategic Enrollment Management
Bryan Wada, Information Technology Consultant 2
Ryland White, PM-ASOIT
Dr. Jennifer Wilson, Director of Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion

University Staff, Visitors, and Faculty in attendance (continued)
Dr. Yuehai Yang, President, Oregon Tech Faculty Senate
Gaylyn Maurer
Michelle Meyer
Dr. Linus Yu
Sandi Hanan
Kim Faks
Josie Hudspeth
Carl Agrifoglio
Thomas Cooper
Dr. Denise Sebert
Molly Covey
Hope Foster, Student presenter
Michael Logan, Student presenter
Dawn Taylor, Faculty Member
Kayla Winslow
Troy West
Ben Cannon, Executive Director of HECC
Terry Rogers

1. **Welcome and Call to Order/Roll/Declaration of a Quorum (9:30 AM)** *Chair John Davis*

   Chair Davis called the meeting to order. He reviewed the agenda and instructions on public comments, as some information had been submitted in writing. Board Secretary Fincher took the roll, and a quorum was declared.

2. **Public Comment & Regular Reports**
   2.1 Public comments were made by OT-AAUP Union President Dr. Kari Lundgren, who also shared additional public comments on behalf of faculty member C.J. Riley. Students Hope Foster, Michael Logan, and faculty member Dawn Taylor also provided public comments.
   2.2 Reports from Shared Governance Organizations included ASOIT reports from President Ryland White of the Portland Metro campus and President Uriel Aguilar Torres of the Klamath Falls campus. Oregon Tech Faculty Senate President Dr. Yuehai Yang provided a Faculty-Senate report, and Council Chair Carl Agrifoglio provided an Admin Council report.
   2.3 Oregon Tech Foundation President Alan Polaski reported on behalf of the foundation fundraising results and foundation special events.

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. President Naganathan introduced the new legislative relations team. Their report included updates on the new legislative leadership, governor's top priorities, legislative priorities, 2025-27 state priorities of the Oregon Council of Presidents, Oregon Tech's capital projects (Semon and LRC) and specific legislative priorities. Associate VP Kunse also reviewed federal funding priorities and explained the challenges with the current appropriations process. She discussed the FY 2026 process and the submissions.

4. **Board of Trustees Committee Reports**

4.1 President Nagi Naganathan presented his report. President 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 between 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 in promoting the medical school initiative and the OHSU executives who visited Oregon Tech and met with our team. He closed by emphasizing the strategic plan and the need to revisit the strategic planning process to develop the next plan in the near future.

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 leadership 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 report was provided by **Committee Chair Vince Jones.** His report recapped the finance and facilities committee meeting, which included reports from FOAC chair Professor Don DaSaro, 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 look positive at this time. 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 by reviewing the audit reports provided by Clifton Larson Allen and Eide Bailly and the Banner update project review by AVP Dillon.

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 the 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 President Naganathan'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 Mark Neupert presented "Vetting ideas at Oregon Tech" to the Board. Trustee Neupert reviewed a 20-year history of gathering ideas from colleagues and shared his decision-making model (Mission, Financial Sustainability, and Quality). He provided an example with the master's degree in Applied Behavior Analysis and the Behavior Improvement Group (BIG) 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 discussed topics related to providing affordable education, the success of faculty, staff, and students, culture, long-term view of growth (size), niche, and goals & means. President Naganathan shared his thoughts and mentioned the need to continue reviewing operations, including cost sharing, deferred maintenance, and being fiscally responsible at all times. Trustee Neupert referred to Dr. El-Rewini's report during the AQSS committee meeting, which was related to school closures and mergers and the AGB report. Chair Davis responded to questions and comments made during this session and noted Oregon Tech's distinctiveness. President Naganathan added comments on recent university entrepreneurial actions and the re-invention of the university's image. 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 and that efficiencies and continuous improvement should be at the top of our minds. Trustee Nuńez shared her thoughts on the next strategic plan's timing and direction. Chair Davis shared and reviewed the university's mission statement and vision statement.

6. New Business

- Chair Davis noted that the minutes of the October 2024 full board meeting should be approved and presented them for approval. The minutes were passed by vote, with all present voting aye, with no objections or abstentions.

7. Additional Discussion and Other Matters

- Trustee Early inquired about the medical school and current programs. President Naganathan 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 applauded the earlier comments by students relating to a music program on campus. Trustee Nuńez also added her compliments on the music program interest. Dr. Clark added that she would research the opportunity. Trustee Dentinger called back the conversation about 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 PM, Chair Davis called the Board into executive session:**

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 PM.**

9. Adjournment at 5:16 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 – April 11, 2025.