

Executive Committee – Special Meeting Agenda

Executive Session - The Committee will meet in Executive Session per ORS 192.660(2)(f) to consider information or records that are exempt by law from public inspection, and ORS 192.660(2)(i) to review and evaluate the employment-related performance of the chief executive officer.

1. **Call to Order/Roll/Declaration of a Quorum** (11:30 AM) (5 min) *Chair John Davis*
2. **Consent Agenda** (11:35 AM) (5 min) *Chair Davis*
 - 2.1. **Approval of the Minutes of the Executive Meeting of December 15, 2025**
3. **President’s Report/Legislative Update** (11:40 AM) (10 min) *President Nagi Naganathan*
4. **Oregon Tech Board of Trustees Committee Assignment** (11:50 PM) (5 min) *Chair Davis*
 - 4.1. **Staff Trustee Committee Assignment**
5. **Action Item: Discussion and Recommendation to the Governor of At-Large Member Nominees to the Oregon Tech Board of Trustees** (11:55 PM) (30 min)
President Naganathan and Chair Davis
6. **Executive Session** (12:25 PM) (30 min)
7. **Adjournment** (1:00 PM)

All times are approximate. The Chair reserves the right to move agenda items.

**Executive Committee
DRAFT Minutes**

Executive Committee Member Trustees present:

Chair John Davis, Esq
Vice Chair Vince Jones
David Cauble
Cecelia Amuchastegui
Kanth Gopalpur
Dr. Johnnie Early
President, Dr. Nagi Naganathan (*Ex-Officio*)

Executive Committee Trustee(s) not present:

Celia Nuñez-Flores
Stefan Bird

Other Trustees in attendance:

Dr. Mark Neupert
Kim Faks
Dr. Vijay Dhir

University Staff and Faculty Present:

Dr. Ken Fincher, VP of University Advancement, Executive Director, Oregon Tech Foundation, & Board Secretary
David Groff, Esq, General Counsel
Dr. Hesham El-Rewini, Provost and Sr. VP, Academic Affairs and Strategic Enrollment Management
Dr. Mandi Clark, VP of Student Affairs
Bryan Wada, Information Technology Specialist
John Harman, Sr. VP, Finance and Administration
Katie Harman Ebner, Executive & Strategic Communication Specialist
Adria Paschal, Senior Executive Assistant, President's Office
Dr. Praveen Guraja, Asst. Professor of Applied Computing and Geomatics
Dr. Abdy Afjeh, Sr. Vice Provost, Research and Academic Affairs
Dr. Neslihan Alp, Dean of the College of Engineering, Technology and Management (ETM)

1. Call to Order/Roll/Declaration of a Quorum *Chair John Davis*

Chair Davis called the meeting to order at 8:04 AM. The Board Secretary called the roll, and a quorum was declared.

2. Action Items: *Chair, John Davis*

2.1 Institutional Goals: Chair Davis and President, Dr. Nagi Naganathan

- After an introduction and process summary from Chair Davis, Dr. Nagi proposed the Academic Year (AY) 2025-2026 goals. Dr. Nagi provided a rationale for each of the goals as well as the challenges and opportunities each presents. The goals presented are as follows:
 1. Develop the new Strategic Plan and present it for review and approval at the April 2026 Board of Trustees meeting.
 2. Grow overall enrollment in Fall 2026 by 3%-5% over the Fall 2025 census enrolled students, excluding dual credit.
 3. Increase the retention rate of first-year, full-time students by 2% from the current level of 75%.
 4. Increase research grant submissions (+25%) from the current 3-year average of 62 per year.
 5. Create a sustainable study-abroad program with at least five (5) trips in 2026, with an objective to create tangible and scalable global experiences for at least 60 students by calendar year 2026 Summer term.
 6. Demonstrate implementation of AI competencies in at least 10 courses during the AY2025-26 and launch a Bachelors of Artificial Intelligence degree by Fall 2026.
 7. Raise \$5.5 million toward the annual campaign and capital campaign.
 8. Develop a new marketing and branding campaign for Oregon Tech statewide.
 9. Complete the feasibility study and business plan for a new medical school by December 31, 2026.
 10. In concert with the Provost's office and the Faculty Senate, develop and implement a Faculty Retention program at the departmental and college levels during the 2025-2026 AY.
- Dr. Nagi provided a detailed background for the reason each goal was merited as being worthy of being brought forward as a strategic priority. Chair Davis noted the challenges universities are facing and why strategic priorities and growth is needed.
- After general discussion and related questions, Trustee Gopalpur moved that the 20205-26 Institutional Goals be accepted as presented. The motion was seconded by Trustee Amuchastegui.
- Aye votes from Trustees: Davis, Jones, Cauble, Gopalpur, and Early.
- There were no Abstentions or Nay votes.

2.2 New Degree Program: Bachelor of Science in Artificial Intelligence, Dr. Praveen Guraja, Assistant Professor of Applied Computing and Geomatics, Dr. Neslihan Alp, Dean of the College of Engineering, Technology & Management, and Dr. Hesham El-Rewini, Provost and Sr. VP of Academic Affairs and Strategic Enrollment Management.

- Provost El-Rewini provided background on the internal and external degree creation and its approval from the faculty curriculum committee, and its readiness for board

approval.

- Provost El-Rewini introduced the academic leadership involved in the program's creation and its ultimate implementation.
- President Naganathan seeded the conversation with remarks related to the growth of the university's program offerings to meet industry demands.
- Dean Alp introduced Dr. Guraja and reviewed his credentials.
- Dr. Guraja who presented a slide deck on the proposed degree program. His presentation included but was not limited to discussions on a federal AIU shift, National AI standards, and Oregon Tech's role in the emerging AI landscape and workforce readiness. He shared information for those who would graduate from this program, the current demand for talent from noted Fortune 500 companies and others.
- Dr. Guraja discussed the 4-Year Student Journey and the pedagogy accompanying each year of a student's academic "journey." His presentation included a pro-forma review and expected income generation.
- After answering questions and a general discussion, Trustee Gopalpur moved that the Proposed Bachelor of Science in Artificial Intelligence be approved. Trustee Early seconded the motion.
- Aye votes from Trustees: Amuchastegui, Davis, Jones, Cauble, Gopalpur, and Early.
- There were no Abstentions or Nay votes.

3. Other Business/New Business – None

4. Adjournment at 10:12 a.m.

A recording of this portion of the meeting is available here:

<https://www.oit.edu/trustees/meetings-events/recordings>