
Board of Trustees Meeting MINUTES

The Board held a closed Executive Session of the 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 and to have confidential communication subject to attorney-client privilege.

Trustees Present:

Jessica Gomez, Chair	Rose McClure	Grace Rusth
Vince Jones, Vice-Chair	Jill Mason	Mike Starr
Dana Londen	Nagi Naganathan, President	Fred Ziari

Trustees Unable to Attend:

Jeremy Brown	Kathleen Hill	Paul Stewart
Lisa Graham	Kelley Minty Morris	

University Staff and Faculty Present:

Brian Fox, VP Finance and Administration
Erin Foley, VP Student Affairs and Dean of Students
Andria Fultz, Associate Professor
Dave Groff, Legal Counsel
Josh Jones, Pre-College Coordinator
Tom Keyser, Dean College of ETM
Joanna Mott, Provost
Mike Myers, Associate Professor Manufacturing and Mechanical Engineering Technology
Adria Paschal, Senior Executive Assistant to the President
Dan Peterson, Interim Dean College of HAS
Di Saunders, AVP Communication and Public Affairs

Students Present:

Mohammed Alqafshat	Nashmy Luna	Stefan Valenzuela
Simeon Florea	Hemi Patel	Peter Wantuck

Others Present:

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

Chair Gomez called the meeting to order at 1:04pm. The Board Secretary called roll and a quorum was declared.

2. Reports

2.1 President's Report and Discussion

President Naganathan reviewed a PowerPoint presentation introducing Kelsey McCauley as the new legislative assistant and Paul Cosgrove as the legislative consultant. He gave an overview of personnel updates including searches for the Dean of HAS and VP Institutional Advancement, and transitions in Advancement, SEM and Government Relations.

2.2 ASOIT Report

President Valenzuela and members of the Portland-Metro ASOIT gave a presentation highlighting the IEEE club, Baja team, Cyber Security club, website changes to improve transparency, providing options for students to give feedback, results from a spring term survey, and tuition forums.

2.3 Administrative Council Report

AVP DeArmond stated she is the executive staff member of the council and gave an overview of the previous two meetings including discussion on the purpose of the Administrative Council and potential policy amendments.

2.4 Faculty Senate Report

President Torres noted that she is the spokesperson for faculty. She voiced appreciation for the meet and greet with Trustees. She reviewed a PowerPoint presentation and referenced graphs previously presented, noting they have been updated with the latest figures. She stated state revenue for Oregon Tech has increased but in spite of the increases the fund balance has decreased to an all-time low and the percentage of aid to students has decreased again. She referenced a bar chart representing seven direct reports of the President and the salary increases. She also stated total administrative raises were \$2 million for the 18-19 year. The issues with the increases are process, equity and transparency. The concern is not how much the individuals are paid but how the funds were allocated; the reasons for the raises were not reasonable. The biggest concern the faculty have is that the financial choices affect the student experience at Oregon tech. Three courses of Communication were cancelled not because of low enrollment but because there was no professor to teach them. Students were not able to take courses they need. Faculty are teaching far too many overload; some are teaching almost double what they are teaching meaning courses are not as good as they could be. It is understood that solutions take funds but faculty is asking trustees to listen and question the data and where it is coming from. Faculty do not feel valued, appreciated or respected and there is little confidence in the president's leadership. She asked the board to look closely at the information and not just at one source.

Chair Gomez stated she understands the trust and angst resulting from the budget constraints and appreciates the delivery of the information. She did a great deal of research of shared governance and found a common thread that trust is given. She explained the board's detailed review of the finances as its fiduciary responsibility. She thinks there may be a misinterpretation that the board might not be doing the detailed review of the issues and wanted to clarify that the trustees are doing that. **Vice Chair Jones** asked Ms. Torres what she feels that status is now - after the Board received letters from faculty and her last presentation; does she feel if there is movement there is movement in a positive negative

direction or are they stalled. **Ms. Torres** replied she feels it has gotten worse. Faculty does not feel valued – the town hall was solid data dump; there was no time for faculty to ask questions or express any concerns; the tone was condescending and faculty were frustrated. She relayed that faculty do not feel heard or appreciated; people who feel valued will go the extra mile. She stated you can say you appreciate the faculty but it must be shown. **Chair Gomez** made the point that the faculty are definitely appreciated by the Board. **Trustee Londen** stated that the students appreciate the staff and faculty.

2.5 Legislative Report

VP Fox stated the legislature will convene for the short session. He identified higher education priorities including transfer articulation and specific capital requests for Oregon Tech. He also addressed the student success and completion model (funding formula) with the Higher Education Coordinating Commission and the biannual review of Oregon Tech by HECC.

2.6 Strategic Enrollment Management Report

Director Johnson, via Skype, gave a PowerPoint presentation reviewing figures from the fall term, targets for fall 2020 and current numbers.

2.7 Academic Quality and Student Success Committee Report

Trustee Mason reviewed the AQ&SS committee meeting stating there were five uplifting presentations today including the provost's report, retention, financial aid, RockSat C, and the TRiO program.

2.8 Finance and Facilities Committee Report

Vice Chair Jones noted the report from the FOAC Chair and the committee's concerns; the current plan to reduce the current budget deficit; acceptance of the annual financial report and single audit; the acceptance of the internal audit report; and a recommendation to the Board regarding internal audit contract services. He stated the committee discussed the tuition recommendation process and received an update from the OMIC director.

2.9 Executive Committee Report

Chair Gomez stated the committee reviewed the board's agenda.

3. Consent Agenda

3.1 Approve Minutes of the November 21, 2020 Meeting

3.2 Authorize staff to enter into a contract for internal auditing and authorize the Chair of the Audit Committee to finalize and execute the request for proposals and resulting contract.

Trustee Mason moved to approve the consent agenda. **Trustee Rusth** seconded the motion. With all trustees present voting aye, the motion passed unanimously.

4. Action Items – none

5. Discussion Items

5.1 Assess Trustee Survey Results

Chair Gomez explained there were technology glitches and not all trustees have taken the survey. The board secretary stated she would contact the absent trustees and request they complete the survey. She also requested the Board Chair and Vice Chair review the results and address them at the April meeting. She requested feedback to improve future surveys. **Trustee Ziari** stated the survey was very long and the last five questions were could be eliminated.

6. Other Matters

Each board member shared a thought about, or take-away from, the meeting. Items of note included: ASOIT members impressiveness, increase in applicants, being cautious about data, appreciation for the number of deferred maintenance projects completed and under budget, the financial plan to make sure the university is moving in the right direction, concern about providing a positive experience for the number of new students, the campus community understanding 'behind the scenes work' such as deferred maintenance, concern there might be a disconnect between what trustees are seeing and what faculty is seeing, request to hear about partnership programs at the high school and community college levels, appreciation of students, faculty and staff, and the need for communication between different divisions to come together and work on solving problems of retention and recruitment.

7. Public Comment - none

8. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 4:37pm.

Respectfully submitted,



Sandra Fox
Board Secretary