

Oregon Tech Board of Trustees meeting summary

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The Oregon Tech Board of Trustees held a Special Board meeting Friday afternoon, December 16, 2022. This is the fourth meeting of the Board this academic year in order to address important University matters in a timely manner. The Board agenda included the 2022 Fall Term census enrollment report, a review and approval of the institutional/President's annual goals and President's contract, and a presentation of Oregon Tech's legislative priorities, including a discussion of the Klamath Falls campus geothermal system. Highlights of the meeting include the following:

- Updated enrollment numbers for Fall 2022 were presented to the Board by Provost Joanna Mott. Currently, 4,913 students are enrolled at Oregon Tech compared to last year's census enrollment of 4,910 students. New first-year student enrollment increased by 4.5%. Also, enrollment in Oregon Tech's dual credit program increased by 16%. The administration remains focused on positive steps to retain students and grow enrollment in the coming year.
- Provost Joanna Mott presented the highest enrolled majors at Klamath Falls and Portland-Metro. In Klamath Falls, Mechanical Engineering (242), Pre-Medical Imaging (139), Radiologic Science (135), Biology-Health Sciences (127), and Software Engineering Technology (114) are highest. At Portland-Metro, Software Engineering Technology (98), Medical Laboratory Science (71), Mechanical Engineering (62), Cybersecurity (57), and Electrical Engineering (55) lead. Online, Echocardiography (72), Applied Psychology (54), Information Technology (51), Dental Hygiene (44), and Pre-MIT (43) are the highest enrolled.
- The Board reviewed progress on the institution/President's annual 2021-22 goals, and reviewed and approved the 2022-2023 goals. In reviewing 2021-2022's goals, highlights included: (i) more than 800 degrees awarded for a second consecutive year (809 in 2020-21 and 805 in 2021-22) – the highest two years in the last 36 years that are trackable, (ii) a record new freshman enrollment for Fall 2022 (463), (iii) launch of the the Diversity, Inclusion, and Cultural Engagement (DICE) office, (iv) completion of the Climate Assessment Survey and beginning implementation of action steps; (v) completion of the construction of the CEET building on budget; (vi) successful funding efforts from the federal and state government, and donors, and (vii) ending the fiscal year with a net positive margin of \$1.9 million on the Board approved budget of \$70.8 million.
- The Board approved institutional/Presidential goals for 2022-2023, including (i) completing a successful Year-7 Comprehensive Review and site visit by the Northwest Commission of Colleges

and Universities; (ii) increasing enrollment and retention, including growth at Portland-Metro, (iii) increasing staff and faculty research proposals, (iv) completing the Facilities Master Plan, (v) developing at least two new academic degree programs and (vi) an examination of the academic department structure and their alignment with the strategic and the academic master plans, as well as formulation of a comprehensive capital campaign for the university in partnership with the Oregon Tech Foundation.

- The Board also completed the process of reviewing and making change in the President's compensation in conjunction with his Board evaluation. Since his service at Oregon Tech started in April 2017, the Board had not previously reviewed or revised his compensation package.
- The Board reviewed the University's legislative priorities for the upcoming 2023 session of the Oregon Legislature. VP John Harman presented the priorities for the 2023 session, with a highlight being a special funding request to repair the Klamath Falls' campus geothermal system. Other priorities include partnering with other universities to secure increases to the Public University Support Fund (PUSF), the Engineering and Technology Sustaining Fund (ETSF), and the Sports Lottery, pursuing funding for the future of the Applied Computing and Rural Health Initiatives, university capital projects, and 75th Anniversary Oregon Tech Proclamation.
- With respect to the geothermal system, in June 2022, based on recent repair history, Oregon Tech commissioned an engineering condition assessment to objectively determine the health of the system. Fluent Engineering, Inc completed a detailed condition assessment. The assessment detailed: "The geothermal heating system at the Klamath Falls Campus of Oregon Tech has been effective for over 60 years and is not only a unique renewable resource that benefits Oregon, but it is critical to the continued operation of Oregon Tech. Geothermal is the only heating source for almost all of the [Klamath Falls] campus, and the majority of the system is beyond its service life. The consequences of not addressing the deficiencies of the system range from periodic with increasing frequency operational disruptions to a complete loss of assets at the entire Klamath Falls campus." The reconditioning of the geothermal system is estimated to cost about \$18 million. Oregon Tech will submit a funding request to the state legislature and actively lobby the legislature to secure resources so that the geothermal system continues to be a valuable renewable energy asset for the university.

The next Oregon Tech Board of Trustees meeting is planned for Wednesday, January 25, 2023, at the Portland-Metro campus in Wilsonville and at OMIC in Scappoose on Thursday, January 26, 2023.