



## Oregon Tech Board of Trustees meeting summary

---

October 24, 2022

Contact: Dr. Ken Fincher  
Interim Board Secretary  
541-885-1118  
[Ken.Fincher@oit.edu](mailto:Ken.Fincher@oit.edu)

The Oregon Tech Board of Trustees (BOT) concluded its two-day October meeting Tuesday afternoon, October 18, at the Oregon Tech Portland-Metro campus. The meeting's theme was "Oregon Tech's Strategic Plan." Trustees began the meetings on Monday, October 17<sup>th</sup> with the Finance and Facilities Committee (FFC), reviewing and discussing the University's audited financials, capital projects report, and recommending to the full BOT (i) approval of the University to negotiate a new external auditor contract and (ii) approval of tuition and fees for the initial Summer 2023 cohort of the new Doctor of Physical Therapy (DPT) program. The DPT Program will be Oregon Tech's first doctoral degree and meets a critical healthcare need in the Northwest, and southern Oregon in particular. In addition, the FFC noted that Oregon Tech successfully completed the 2021-2022 fiscal year under budget while meeting student and other university priorities.

The Trustees then toured the Emergency Medical Services department with Dr. Jamie Kennel and enjoyed a campus tour with Portland-Metro ASOIT President Billy Kimmel. That afternoon, the BOT committee on Academic Quality and Student Success (AQSS) met to discuss 2022-23 enrollment, human resource data, a report on student affairs including athletics, plans for new academic programs, grant programs, and Tech's emergency services response plans. Enrollment trends continue to show stable growth in freshman classes, with challenges from reduced transfers from Oregon's community colleges, which saw significantly reduced enrollments throughout the pandemic. The BOT spent time reviewing human resources data analyzing the challenges presented by national trends in mobility in the workforce, and Oregon Tech's ability to hire new, talented faculty and staff through the pandemic.

The AQSS committee meeting also highlighted The National Early Response Firefighting System (NERFS) student innovation project, presented by Tech students Graeme Wiltrot and Marcus Delamarter. The first day of BOT meetings concluded with a reception with Portland-Metro faculty, students, Trustees, and university administrators.

At the Tuesday, October 18<sup>th</sup> meetings, the morning began with the BOT Executive Committee meeting involving a conversation among Trustees about the BOT's annual self-assessment, trustee selection process, and the process for addressing the President's compensation. Board Chair John Davis later reported these deliberations to the entire board.

Next, the trustees toured the Medical Laboratory Sciences program with department chair Caroline Doty and faculty member Rachel Barrett.



The MLS program is the only baccalaureate degree program in this field in the state of Oregon, and the trustees enjoyed learning about the 99% retention rate in the professional program track and the 100% placement rate in jobs.

Keeping with the board theme of Oregon Tech's Strategic Plan, the second day of meetings included reports from President Naganathan, ASOIT presidents Billy Kimmel (PM) and Sasha Rabich (KF), Administrative Council Chair Becky Burkeen, Faculty Senate President Terri Torres, an Oregon Tech Foundation report from Vice Chair Jim Blair, and a strategic enrollment report from Provost Mott.

President Naganathan recognized the efforts of the university faculty and staff and thanked them for helping to graduate a record number of students. During lunch, guests from ASOIT leadership, faculty senate, campus leadership, and the trustees broke bread and enjoyed learning about and from each other.

In the afternoon, the BOT chairs of the Finance and Facilities Committee (FFC), Academic Quality and Student Success (AQSS), and Executive Committee presented reports to the entire Board. In addition, the trustees voted to approve DPT tuition and fees for summer 2023 and to negotiate a contract with an external auditor.

Finally, the BOT meeting closed with discussions and presentations among the Board regarding (i) progress of the university's Strategic Plan, (ii) efforts in responding to the campus climate assessment, (iii) Board outreach efforts (including a return to two-day meetings involving department tours and Board receptions), (iv) the Board dashboards of University metrics, and (v) the Board's fiduciary duties and policy and implementation of shared governance.

No persons signed up for public comment. After closing remarks by Chair Davis, the meeting was adjourned. The next planned meeting of the Oregon Tech Board of Trustees is on January 26, 2023, in Wilsonville and at the Oregon Manufacturing Innovation Center (OMIC) complex in Scappoose.