

POSITION	TERM	NAME	DEPARTMENT/DIVISION
Chair- Vice President	2024-25	John Harman	Finance and Administration
Assoc. Vice President	2024-25	Mandi Clark	Student Affairs
Assoc. VP/Controller	2024-25	Alicia Dillon	Finance and Administration
Interim Provost	2024-25	Hesham El-Rewini	Academic Affairs
Assoc. Vice Provost	2024-25	Greg Stringer	Strategic Enrollment Mgmt (SEM)
Coordinator	2024-25	Kendal Marks	Registrar/Financial Aid
Assoc. Director	2024-25	Anna Clark	Budget Office
FOAC Chair & Assistant Professor	2024-27	Don DaSaro	Business Management
General Education Program Director	2024-27	Ryan Madden	Humanities/Social Services
Klamath Falls ASOIT President	2024-25	Uriel Aguilar Torres	Student Government
Portland-Metro ASOIT Representative	2024-25	Bryce Wilson	Student Government
Klamath Falls Student	2024-25	Julia Ketcham	Student
Klamath Falls Student	2024-25	Ronny Ryno	Student
Klamath Falls Student	2024-25	Keora O'Meara	Student
Portland Metro Student	2024-25	Jessica Armenta	Student
Administrative Support	2024-25	Helen Drewel	Finance and Administration

Minutes

Committee Members In Attendance: John Harman, Mandi Clark, Alicia Dillon, Hesham El-Rewini, Greg Stringer, Kendal Marks, Anna Clark, Don DaSaro, Ryan Madden, Uriel Aguilar Torres, Bryce Wilson, Ronny Ryno, Keora O'Meara, Jessica Armenta

Additional Attendees: Helen Drewel and several non-committee students & staff

Meeting called to order at 4:00pm.

1. **Welcome** - Chair Harman welcomed all attendees and opened the meeting.
2. **Meeting Minutes** - Meeting minutes from the January 29, 2025 meeting were reviewed and unanimously approved.
3. **Recap of Reserve Use** – Chair Harman reviewed the reserve funds requested and utilized over the past two fiscal years. This year, \$2.5M was requested and approved by the Board of Trustees based on a projected 3% enrollment decline, however, enrollment has remained flat with an increase in credit hours.
4. **Uncertainty in State Funding** - Chair Harman reviewed Oregon's Public Universities Support Fund (PUSF) request for state funding:
 - a. Oregon's public universities collectively requested a \$276 million (27.6%) increase, including:
 - \$95.3 (9.54%) for Current Service Level (CSL) to cover inflation related costs
 - \$180.9 million (18.1%) for student support services, and workforce development.
 - b. The Governor's budget proposes a 7% increase, which falls short of the 9.5% needed to maintain current operations.
 - The increased investment of 9.5% is essential for affordability, student success and maintaining services.

5. **Student Enrollment Update** – Dr. Stringer provided an update on student enrollment.
 - a. Overall enrollment has increased from last year; retention is a priority.
 - b. Retention metrics should be evaluated in 2-4 year cycles to realize long-term impact. Freshman retention is critical to sustain growth in enrollment.
 - c. We have seen a drop in transfer students in recent years.
6. **Labor Cost Acceleration**– Chair Harman reviewed the elements of the labor cost acceleration noting that there are still many unknowns:
 - a. Uncertainty surrounding AAUP negotiations, employee benefits and increasing retirements rates. The most prevalent retirement tier at Oregon Tech is increasing by 12.6%
7. **Budget Options** – Anna Clark reviewed the options and associated pros and cons for closing a gap in the budget.
 - a. Operating budget reductions, use of fund balance, and tuition increase are the primary levers and can be used in any combination
 - b. Fund balance usage reduces reserves and may negatively impact the reserve balance for future needs and the board-mandated target for the reserve fund.
 - c. The board may be cautious about repeated fund balance usage, as reserves have been tapped for the last 3 years.
 - d. Creating efficiencies has been a priority for reducing expenses with a focus on avoiding major negative impacts on resources for course quality.
8. **Draft FY 2025-26 Budget Scenarios**- Anna Clark reviewed FY 2025-26 early budget projections using varying levels of tuition increases up to 5%
 - a. Assumptions include a 7% increase in the Public University Support Fund (PUSF) and 0% change in student credit hours.
 - b. A 4-5% increase in tuition would be needed to balance the budget.
 - c. Oregon Tech’s budget for the current fiscal year began with a \$2.5M deficit, which must be balanced through revenue growth before realizing gains from increased enrollment.
9. **Tuition Comparisons** – Anna Clark reviewed tuition peer comparison.
 - a. Comparator universities are determined by:
 1. Official institutional research
 2. Competitors identified by Admissions
 - b. Oregon public universities Chair Harman, Don DaSaro, and Greg Stringer addressed a question regarding why online tuition rates are higher than in-person rates when there are seemingly fewer resources needed for online instruction:
 - Online courses require a robust IT infrastructure, which must be maintained and upgraded.
 - Oregon Tech has seen nearly double the cost of IT costs in the last 5-6 years which is driven by platform upgrades and rising software hosting expenses. We must plan for rising IT costs to continue to ensure our long-term sustainability.
 - Tuition rates are based on overall operational expenses, and are not directly tied to individual courses.

Meeting adjourned at 5:30pm