

**Executive Committee Meeting
AGENDA**

1. **Call to Order/Roll/Declaration of a Quorum** (8:15 AM) (5 min) *Chair John Davis*
 - 1.1 **Consent Agenda: Approval of the Minutes of the Special Executive Committee Meeting of March 13, 2026**
2. **Governor's Trustee Appointments** (8:20 AM) (10 min) *Chair Davis*
3. **Action Item** (8:30 AM) (15 min) *Chair Davis*
 - 3.1 **Conferring of Honorary Doctorate Degree** *President Nagi Naganathan*
4. **Executive Session** (8:45 AM) (15 min)
The Committee will meet in Executive Session 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 confidential communication subject to attorney-client privilege.
5. **Adjournment** (9:00 AM)

All times and discussion lengths are estimated and approximate.

The Chair of the Board of Trustees reserves the right to adjust the agenda schedule and the length of agenda items.

Executive Committee – Special Meeting MINUTES

Member Trustees present:

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

Other Trustees in attendance:

Dr. Vijay Dhir
Kim Faks
Dr. Mark Neupert

University Staff and Faculty Present:

Dr. Mandi Clark, VP of Student Affairs
Dr. Hesham El-Rewini, Provost and Sr. VP, Academic Affairs and Strategic Enrollment Management
David Groff, Esq, General Counsel
John Harman, Sr. VP, Finance and Administration
Katie Harman Ebner, Executive & Strategic Communications
Bryan Wada, Information Technology Specialist

1. **Call to Order/Roll/Declaration of a Quorum** *Chair John Davis*
Chair Davis called the meeting to order at **11:31 AM**. **Katie Harman Ebner** called the roll of Executive Committee members. A quorum was declared.
2. **Consent Agenda** *Chair Davis*
 - 2.1 **Approval of the Minutes of the Executive Meeting of December 15, 2025**
Chair Davis introduced the item and asked if there were any comments or requested revisions to the minutes of the **December 15, 2025** Executive Committee meeting. No comments or revisions were offered. There were **no abstentions or nay votes**. The minutes were **approved** unanimously.

3. **President's Report / Legislative Update** *President Nagi Naganathan*

President Naganathan provided an update on state and federal legislative developments:

- **State Budget Outcome:** **President Naganathan** explained that while we were bracing for a major budgetary impact, the Oregon legislature ultimately decided against any cuts due to higher-than-expected revenue forecasts and other fiscal measures, ensuring no reduction in state allocations for Oregon Tech.
- **Legislative Study Bill HB 4124:** **President Naganathan** described the passage of HB 4124, which mandates a comprehensive study of Oregon's post-secondary education system to ensure long-term sustainability, with HECC leading the process and requiring broad stakeholder engagement, including input from faculty, staff, students, and governing boards.
- **Federal Funding Successes:** **President Naganathan** reported that Oregon Tech secured \$3.854 million in federal funding for FY2026, supporting projects such as mobile dental clinics, energy manufacturing, and quantum computing initiatives, and highlighted the university's competitive standing among Oregon institutions in attracting federal innovation funds.
- **Future Federal Project Proposals:** **President Naganathan** outlined the university's FY2027 federal funding proposals, which include advanced imaging, AI infrastructure, and UAS research, and noted ongoing engagement with Oregon's congressional delegation and plans to host senators for campus town halls.
- **Tuition and Budget Planning:** **President Naganathan** stated that the administration is working toward a balanced budget for next year while keeping tuition affordable for our students.

Trustee Bird and Chair Davis expressed appreciation for the positive fiscal news, the federal awards, and the strong positioning of Oregon Tech within both the state and federal landscapes.

4. **Oregon Tech Board of Trustees Committee Assignment** *Chair Davis*

4.1 **Staff Trustee Committee Assignment**

Chair Davis noted that Trustee Kim Faks has provided significant service to the university over many years. The Chair announced his appointment of Trustee Faks to the Academic Quality and Student Success (AQSS) Committee. Trustees expressed appreciation and welcomed Trustee Faks to the committee, noting the value of her experience to AQSS.

5. **Action Item: Discussion and Recommendation to the Governor of At-Large Member Nominees to the Oregon Tech Board of Trustees,** *President Naganathan and Chair Davis*

President Naganathan explained the board's policy and best practices for at-large trustee nominations, emphasizing the need for independent oversight, strategic insight, and diversity in professional expertise, geography, gender, and ethnicity. A gap analysis was conducted to identify board needs.

President Naganathan presented detailed backgrounds for four nominees: **Heidi Neel Biggs** (community foundation executive and policy leader), **Dr. Arnel Fajardo** (technology executive and HECC member), **Jim Hackett** (building materials industry executive and foundation leader), and **Chris Mangan** (Oregon Tech alumna and biotech consultant), highlighting their qualifications and alignment with board priorities.

Trustees, including Davis, Amuchastegui, Gopalpur, and Neupert, complimented the candidates' strengths, the importance of institutional knowledge, and the value of alums and community engagement.

Chair Davis moved that the Executive Committee recommend to the Governor's Office the four at-large trustee nominees as presented. The motion was seconded by **Trustees Amuchastegui and Early**. A vote was called by roll of Executive Committee members. The motion carried unanimously.

6. **Executive Session (12:20-12:41 PM)** *The Committee met 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.*
7. **Other Business** *Chair John Davis*
At the end of the Executive Session, the Committee returned to its public session. **Chair John Davis, President Naganathan,** and **Trustees** discussed logistics for upcoming board and committee meetings in April and June, addressed questions about reporting requirements, and coordinated agenda preparation.
8. **Adjournment at 12:52 PM.**

A recording of the meeting is available on the Oregon Tech website:
<https://www.oit.edu/trustees/meetings-events/recordings>