

**Meeting of the Academic Strategies Committee**

**March 30, 2016**

**Horizon Room, Memorial Union, OSU  
Corvallis, Oregon**

**MINUTES**

**Committee Members Present:** Paul Kelly (*chair*), Michele Longo Eder (*vice chair*), Brenda McComb, Preston Pulliams, Sabah Randhawa (*ex officio*), Pat Reser, and Cynthia Sagers (*ex officio*)

**Other Trustees Present:** Patty Bedient, Rani Borkar, Darry Callahan, Brett Morgan, Ed Ray, Kirk Schueler, and Mike Thorne

**University Faculty and Staff Present:** Ron Adams, Angela Batista, Debbie Colbert, Jennifer Dennis (*associate dean, Graduate School*), Larry Flick (*dean, College of Education*), Becca Gose, Adam Higgins (*associate professor, Bioengineering, College of Engineering*), Mark Huey, Virginia Lesser (*chair, Statistics Department, College of Science*), Sastry Pantula (*dean, College of Science*), Clay Simmons, Patti Snopkowski, Marcia Stuart, and James Sweeney (*head, School of Chemical, Biological and Environmental Engineering, College of Engineering*)

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

Committee Chair Paul Kelly called the meeting to order at 9:31 a.m. He requested the assistant board secretary call the roll and noted a quorum.

**2. Provost's Report**

Chair Kelly asked Provost Sabah Randhawa to make his report to the Committee. Before making his report, Provost Randhawa called the Committee's attention to charts at Tab H, page 1, and Tab I, page 1, which provide a clear context for proposed academic programs within their respective colleges. He noted that the charts are works in progress and asked Committee members for feedback. Board Chair Pat Reser said that the charts provided a clearer overview of the colleges of Engineering and Science. Committee Chair Kelly thanked Randhawa and said that the charts provided a clearer picture for Committee members of each college proposing a new academic program.

In his report, Randhawa said that the University had submitted its first annual report to the Higher Education Coordinating Committee (HECC) and that HECC had approved it and would be forwarding it to the state legislature. Reser asked whether the HECC was planning to improve its process and content for the next annual report. Randhawa said that the HECC was planning on reviewing comments about the report and making improvements to both process and content. On the matter of Oregon State's international degree program, Randhawa reported that an external review of the program was taking place as part of a larger review of Oregon State's international programs and that the University was looking for an academic home for the program. He noted that the current program had not been terminated and that the University had a process for terminating programs. He said that the University is considering designing a certificate program if the current degree program is ended. Committee Vice Chair Michele Longo Eder noted that, with regards to the

Committee's role, this information was a helpful example of the Board being informed about an issue before an actual decision had been made.

### **3. Consent Item**

#### **a. Minutes of the January 28, 2016 Meeting**

A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes of the January 28, 2016 Committee meeting. The motion carried.

### **4. Education/Discussion Item**

#### **a. College of Education**

Randhawa introduced Dean of Education Larry Flick, who provided an overview of the college. He described the four goals of the college's strategic plan: provide transformational learning experiences, be leaders in research, create a diverse and inclusive community, and engage communities. He discussed the college's academic programs in education and described its undergraduate double-degree professional licensure program that is integrated with most of Oregon State's other colleges and its professional licensure programs, some of which are integrated with campus graduate programs in music education, physical education, agricultural education, and science and math education. Reser asked Dean Flick to discuss the college's emphasis on STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics), rather than STEAM (science, technology, engineering, arts, and mathematics). Flick said that the arts play an active role in the educational program even though they are not always part of the language of the program. Trustee Pulliams asked how the College of Education has connected with the national discussion and criticism about teacher education. Flick said that starting in fall 2016, the College of Education will begin a partnership between Oregon State University and the Beaverton School District that will prepare students to effectively deliver classroom instruction through a new hybrid teacher licensure program. The Master of Arts in Teaching with an option in Clinically Based Elementary Education program is a two-year, full-time master's degree program that immerses students in the classroom, where they will co-teach and work side by side with experienced Beaverton School District educators. This is just one project that goes to the heart of criticism about teacher education. Chair Kelly asked about the challenges facing the college from Oregon State's major investment in online learning. Flick said that the college's programs are aligned with the University's heightened emphasis on online learning. Vice Chair Eder asked whether a student can become a teacher only by taking online courses and also asked whether online courses' lack of face-to-face interactions had a deleterious effect on the quality of the teaching that was learned. Flick said that the college does not offer an online undergraduate degree but does offer an online master of education program and several hybrid master's and doctoral degree programs. He said that the hybrid programs combine online courses with on-campus and/or meeting at an off-campus classroom setting, so face-to-face interactions are maintained.

### **5. Actions Items**

#### **a. House Bill 3375 Educator Equity Plan**

Randhawa asked Flick to introduce HB 3375 Educator Equity Plan, which requires that each public teacher education program in the state prepare a plan every two years for the recruitment, admission, retention and graduation of diverse educators. For each public university with an educator preparation program, the HECC is required to review the plan with the university's board and, after the university has made any necessary

revisions, adopt the plan. Flick noted that OSU's educator equity plan is the first of its kind and pointed out the factors that will influence its successful implementation: continued availability of state funds, continued campus and community focus on creating an inclusive environment, and improved institutional and state ability to track the careers of OSU students who go into teaching. Trustee Pulliams asked how the College of Education attracts underrepresented minority students into its programs and how it is attempting to raise the public's perception of the teaching profession. Flick reported on the work of the college head advisor's contacts with campus cultural centers and community colleges in the region. Chair Kelly asked Flick to report to the Committee in a year on the progress the University has made under the plan. Randhawa recommended that the metrics developed for the educator equity plan be incorporated in the University's metrics and reported annually. Board Chair Reser asked to go on record as noting the importance of educators needing to change how they educate as those they educate change.

Following this discussion, a motion was made and seconded to recommend to the Board that it approve the Educator Equity Plan for 2016-18 as provided in Tab G, Amendment 1. The motion carried.

**b. New Academic Program: MEng, MS, PhD in Bioengineering**

Randhawa asked Adam Higgins, associate professor, Bioengineering, College of Engineering, and James Sweeney, head, School of Chemical, Biological and Environmental Engineering, College of Engineering, to speak about the proposed new degree program in Bioengineering. Sweeney first provided an overview and set the context for the program. Higgins, who will direct the new program, spoke about the proposal. Chair Kelly asked them to address the need for the program. Higgins said that it will provide much-needed cross-disciplinary training in biomedical engineering. After describing the financial plan for the program, Higgins responded to Chair Reser's question about whether the new program would provide an advantage in applying for grants. As a cross-disciplinary program, Higgins said, Bioengineering would be more nimble and credible and would help unify faculty from diverse departments. Vice Chair Eder noted that staff had provided a more effective model for the Committee's review of proposed academic programs, and Chair Kelly concurred.

Following this discussion, a motion was made and seconded to recommend to the Board that it approve the establishment of an instructional program leading to M.S., M.Eng., and Ph.D. degrees in Bioengineering, effective fall 2016, pending the approval of the Higher Education Coordinating Commission and the Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities. The motion carried.

**c. New Academic Program: MS, Graduate Certificate in Data Analytics**

Randhawa introduced Dean of Science Sastry Pantula, who provided an overview of the college and the two new proposed degrees that would be offered through the college: a master of science degree in data analytics and a graduate certificate in data analytics. Pantula introduced Virginia Lesser, chair of the Statistics Department in the College of Science, who spoke about the reasons for developing the new programs: a need for skills in data management and data analysis technologies to analyze large volumes of data. Trustee Borkar spoke enthusiastically in support of the proposal, noting Oregon's need to train more specialists in "big" data management and analysis.

Following this discussion, a motion was made and seconded to recommend to the Board that it approve the establishment of an instructional program leading to a M.S. in Data Analytics and a Graduate Certificate in Data Analytics, effective fall 2016, pending the approval of the Higher Education Coordinating Commission and the Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities. The motion carried.

## **6. Education/Discussion Items**

### **a. Graduate Learning and Educational Experience**

Randhawa next introduced Associate Dean of the Graduate School Jennifer Dennis, who made a presentation and led a brisk discussion about the learning and educational experience at the Graduate School. Dennis described the school's functions and highlighted some noteworthy facts, including the Graduate School's size, the diversity of its students, and the number of graduate degrees it awards. She said that Oregon State offers 77 majors at the master's degree level and 57 majors at the doctoral level across 11 colleges. She noted the school's alignment with the objectives of OSU's Strategic Plan 3.0 and spoke about some of the school's new initiatives, including establishing a student success team and opening a Graduate Student Success Center, focusing on advancing the school's diversity initiatives, and enhancing professional development opportunities. Trustee Pulliams asked whether the school had developed a recruitment strategy to attract OSU undergraduates into the school. Dennis said that the relationship between OSU undergraduates and the graduate school was growing closer. Following the presentation, Kelly thanked Dennis for providing a good overview of the school. Randhawa also thanked Dennis, noting that graduate education was critical to OSU and its mission and needed more advocacy for its importance from the HECC.

### **b. Leadership in Research**

Vice President for Research Cindy Sagers provided a high-level overview of OSU's Research Office. She introduced the members of the office leadership who were present at the meeting: Patricia Hawk, assistant vice president for sponsored research and award administration; Rich Holdren, associate vice president for Research; Mark Peters, interim director of Research Integrity; and Berry Treat, director of Commercialization and Corporate Development. Sagers spoke about her office's responsibility towards the University's Strategic Plan 3.0's mandate to demonstrate leadership in research related to advancing the science of sustainable earth ecosystems, improving human health and wellness, and promoting economic growth and social progress. She highlighted the pronounced growth in sponsored awards over the past several years and explained the typical "life-cycles" for single- and multi-investigator grant proposals. Following a 15 minute break, Sagers continued her presentation, focusing on innovation and commercialization. Committee Chair Kelly asked whether OSU engages in proprietary research for industry. Sagers said that OSU as a state institution generally does not provide private lab work for strictly private interests and that, unless there is some compelling University interest outside of research, strictly proprietary research without benefit to faculty, students or staff runs counter to our mission as a public university.

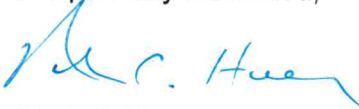
**c. Status Report: New and Existing Academic Program Reviews in Progress**

Due to a lack of time for the Committee, Chair Kelly asked that Trustee McComb make her presentation on new and existing academic program reviews at the next meeting of the Committee. Trustee McComb agreed to the Chair's request and referred Committee members to her report in the Board book (Tab L).

**7. Adjournment**

With no further discussion or business proposed, the meeting was adjourned at 1:03 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Mark C. Huey  
Assistant Board Secretary

