Issues the OSU Board of Trustees Is Likely to Consider during the First Two to Four Years

Once it has addressed organizational issues such as board leadership, committees and other procedural matters, the OSU Board of Trustees will likely address a range of campus-based and statewide issues and questions important to OSU’s future. A number of these issues are addressed in OSU’s strategic plan.

- **Determining Shared Services.** As anticipated in SB 270, the Trustees will face a series of issues involving what services – risk management, payroll, and information technology, among others – will be shared among some or all of the public four-year universities (and, potentially, the community colleges).
- **Maintaining a “System”.** In concert with the shared services discussion, the OSU Board of Trustees will consider how the attributes of a state system of higher education can be retained under independent governing boards and whether new models of collaboration and affiliation can help serve Oregonians across the state more effectively and efficiently.
- **Developing OSU-Cascades.** With help from the Governor and the Legislature over the last two biennia, OSU-Cascades has developed new facilities and new programs and is on track to become a full-fledged 4-year university. The campus faces a number of opportunities and challenges as it continues to serve the Central Oregon Region.
- **Developing a Marine Campus.** Recent reviews of the research and educational capacity at Hatfield Marine Science Center in Newport, expansion of programs in ocean observing and marine renewable energy, and increasing attention to the state’s 40-40-20 goal have stimulated discussions about the opportunities for increasing residence-based education services on the HMSC campus and building up our collective marine research, outreach and educational capabilities.
- **Reimagining Our Learning Environment.** OSU is on a trajectory to engage students more often through a virtual, rather than a solely physical environment. Advances in how and where education occurs will mean increased focus on renovating and retrofitting existing structures, particularly on the Corvallis campus, and on upgrading and enhancing our IT infrastructure.
- **Elevating the OSU Statewide Public Service Programs.** Over the last two legislative sessions, the OSU Extension Service, Agricultural Experiment Station and Forest Research Laboratory – the “OSU Statewides” -- have faced an uphill battle as they seek to recover funding. These programs provide important natural resource-based research and extension programs that bridge the gap between urban and rural Oregon. The Board of Trustees can be instrumental in helping to forge a course that elevates these programs from a biennial exercise in recovering budgets towards stable funding that furthers their impact across all 36 counties in Oregon.
- **Broadening Our Student Profile and Success.** OSU is working towards broadening its student profile (diversity, undergraduate/graduate) that is reflective of a premier 21st century research institution and towards ensuring that student preparation, retention and graduation match the very best institutions nationally and globally.
- **Developing Future Models for Campus Housing.** OSU’s growth over the last decades has created significant housing impacts on the Corvallis community. OSU faces increased local pressure to house more students on campus while more students seek to move away from traditional dormitory-style living situations. OSU needs to consider its role in developing appropriate models for developing housing opportunities to meet these pressures.