



The Board of Trustees of Oregon State University

Meeting of the Academic Strategies Committee

June 2, 2016

Horizon Room, Memorial Union, OSU
Corvallis, Oregon

MINUTES

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

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

University Faculty and Staff Present: Ron Adams, Angela Batista, Kyle Bjornstad (*chief of staff, Athletics Department*), Sherm Bloomer, Susie Brubaker-Cole, Debbie Colbert, Becca Gose, Mark Huey, Andy Karplus (*professor, Biochemistry and Biophysics*), Kimya Massey (*senior associate athletics director for administration*), Sastry Pantula (*dean, College of Science*), Kyle Pifer (*senior associate athletics director for compliance*), Susana Rivera-Mills, Clay Simmons, Patti Snopkowski, Joey Spatafora (*professor, Botany and Plant Pathology, and faculty athletics administrator*), Marcia Stuart, Marianne Vydra (*deputy athletics director for administration*), Kristin Watkins (*associate vice president of development, Oregon State University Foundation*)

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

Committee Chair Paul Kelly called the meeting to order at 9:48 a.m. He requested the assistant board secretary to call the roll and noted a quorum.

2. Provost's Report

Chair Kelly asked Provost Sabah Randhawa to make his report to the Committee. Randhawa reported that Ron Adams has been appointed interim provost, effective July 1, 2016, upon Randhawa's departure from Oregon State University to become president of Western Washington University. Randhawa noted that a national search for a new provost will begin in the early summer. Randhawa also reported that Professor of Oceanography Jack Barth had been appointed executive director of the Marine Studies Initiative. As an update to the status of the International Degree Program, Randhawa said that the program has been proposed to move to the College of Liberal Arts, to be under the responsibility of the Department of World Languages and Cultures. Randhawa called Committee members' attention to the Academic Program Proposal History tables (Tab F) that provide a recent history of academic program changes. Trustee Rani Borkar asked whether programs that had been eliminated were ever re-considered to be restored, and Kelly asked about the relationship between program enrollments and the market for jobs associated with programs. Trustee Michele Longo Eder asked whether the University has a process in place similar to the academic program review process to assess centers and institutes on a regular basis. She asked whether a template similar to that developed for academic program review could be developed for centers and institutes.

3. Consent Item

a. Minutes of the March 30, 2016 Meeting

A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes of the March 30, 2016 Committee meeting. The motion carried.

4. Education/Discussion Items

a. Registrar's Annual Report: 2016 Graduating Class

Randhawa introduced University Registrar Rebecca Mathern, who provided highlights from the Registrar's annual report on the graduating class. Mathern reported that 6,406 graduates were expected to receive 6,723 degrees, including 5,278 baccalaureate degrees, 1,047 master's degrees, and 243 doctor of philosophy degrees. Graduating students represented all 36 Oregon counties, all 50 of the 50 states, and 63 other countries. Mathern noted that she anticipates minor adjustments to the numbers provided in her annual report when the official graduate count comes in July.

b. Undergraduate Learning and Educational Experience

Vice Provost and Dean of Undergraduate Studies Susana Rivera-Mills provided the committee with highlights from "Progress on the Blueprint for Undergraduate Student Success" (Tab I). During the presentation, she gave example of roadblocks in some of the more popular baccalaureate core courses that she and her colleagues found were preventing students from making sufficient progress towards their degrees. She reported on some of the efforts underway to improve diversity, equity and inclusion and decrease the achievement gaps between white students and students of color. Trustee Longo Eder asked whether Rivera-Mills thought the advisor ratios were set too low. Rivera-Mills replied that the advisor model varies by college, depending on the circumstances at the college level. She said that implementing the Student Success Collaborative tool should help the effectiveness of the advising process and that her research led her to conclude that best practice for an advising ratio was 300 students to each advisor. Trustee Borkar asked whether students were used as peer advisors. Rivera-Mills responded that some colleges used their students to advise other students, but the program was not yet systematic or consistent across colleges. Trustee Longo Eder also inquired about the role of faculty; Rivera-Mills noted their importance and said that some colleges relied more heavily on their faculty for advising than others. Rivera-Mills concluded her presentation by speaking briefly about the University Innovation Alliance (UIA) and summarizing UIA's major projects in which Oregon State is participating. She said that she expected that data from these projects will improve evidence-based decision-making.

c. Student Success Initiative

Vice Provost for Student Affairs Susie Brubaker-Cole and Oregon State University Foundation Associate Vice President of Development Kristin Watkins gave a presentation on the Student Success Initiative, which has grown out of President Ray's State of the University Address in Portland in February 2016. Brubaker-Cole said that the initiative is a partnership between the University's colleges, central administration divisions and the OSU Foundation. She summarized the challenge: improving the 1-year retention rate and the 6-year graduation rate for all students and closing the achievement gaps between white students and under-represented minorities. She said the initiative is focused on three goals: make an OSU degree a reality for all qualified Oregonians, make OSU the school of choice for Oregon's high achievers, and make

OSU a place where all students achieve success. The strategies to address these goals are: to close the gap on covering the cost of attendance, to provide competitive recruitment packages for high-achieving students, and to ensure all students participate in at least one form of experiential learning before they graduate. Brubaker-Cole gave examples of what colleges are doing with regards to new approaches to scholarships and experiential learning. She provided examples of how the colleges are implementing the strategies, such as developing innovative teaching and learning designs, providing fellowships that offer financial support for experiential learning projects, and re-visiting how we allocate student scholarships.

Kristin Watkins discussed the OSU Foundation's role in fundraising to support the work of the initiative. She said the Foundation is focused on raising money to improve the areas of access, high achievement and experiential learning and supporting the colleges' individual approaches and differing needs.

d. Student Athletes

Athletics Director Todd Stansbury introduced the Athletics leadership and administrative team: Kyle Bjornstad, Kimya Massey, Kyle Pifer, and Marianne Vydra, noting their important roles. Stansbury also introduced OSU Alumni Association Distinguished Professor Joey Spatafora. Spatafora thanked the Board for its interest in Athletics and the role it plays in students' lives. Following these remarks, Stansbury presented his vision for Athletics, describing it as a part of what he called the "education business," rather than the entertainment business. Intercollegiate athletics offer students opportunities they might not otherwise have. The role of his staff is to give each student-athlete the opportunity to take advantage of these larger opportunities. Stansbury highlighted several national issues affecting athletics and described how Oregon State is addressing them. On the issue of academic fraud, he noted that OSU has safeguards in place to prevent fraud. Regarding sexual harassment and sexual violence, Stansbury said the department relies on a strong educational program and uses external units to investigate allegations of sexual violence. Responding to the Oregon State students' Speak Out on diversity and inclusion concerns earlier in the year, Stansbury said that she is developing "Project Huddle" as a way for student-athletes to promote the values of diversity and inclusion. On the issue of drug and alcohol use on college campuses, Stansbury reported that OSU Athletics had received a grant from the NCAA to train student-athletes to become peer mentors on the issue.

Stansbury asked Massey to describe the Everyday Champions Program. The program's purpose is to help student-athletes develop skills in three main areas – personal development, leadership development and professional development – and to promote the values of community service. Massey highlighted some of the program's signature projects such as Beavers without Borders, the Medical School Pipeline, Women's Leadership Council, Project David, and the culmination of all programming activities throughout the academic year, the Leadership Institute.

Following the presentation, Kelly thanked Stansbury, Massey, Vydra and their staff and noted that Athletics' Everyday Champions program complemented the student success programs described by Rivera-Mills and Brubaker-Cole. During the discussion, several trustees noted that education and student-athlete empowerment and skill development are areas the Committee might be able to add value to through their discussions. Longo

Eder asked that a representative from Athletics be invited to attend each future Academic Strategies Committee meeting.

5. Actions Item

a. New Academic Program: BS in Biochemistry and Molecular Biology

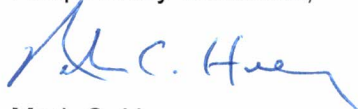
Randhawa asked Dean of the College of Science Sastry Pantula to provide an overview of the College of Science and a context for its proposed new academic program in biochemistry and molecular biology. Pantula noted that the college's School of Life Sciences, composed of the departments of Integrative Biology, Microbiology, and Biochemistry and Biophysics, was formed in 2014. He said the creation of a new B.S. degree in Biochemistry and Molecular Biology would complete the school's restructuring plan, while advancing OSU's signature areas of "Improving Human Health and Wellness" and "Promoting Economic Growth and Social Progress." Pantula introduced University Distinguished Professor Andy Karplus, department head of Biochemistry and Biophysics, who provided more details about the proposed new academic program. Karplus said that the proposed program would provide students with a path to obtain in-depth understanding of the biochemistry of living systems and the techniques necessary to be successful in a variety of careers without requiring intensive study of physical chemistry and biophysical methods. He also said that the proposed program is tied to activities, in particular internships and undergraduate research, known to improve student success by increasing student engagement. Karplus said that the program would provide STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics)-trained professionals to help meet the state's projected future needs for individuals in 88 STEM-related occupations in Oregon. In the discussion that followed, Reser lauded the relevancy of the new program.

Following the discussion, a motion was made and seconded that the Academic Strategies Committee recommend to the Board for approval the establishment of an instructional program leading to a B.S. degree in Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, effective fall 2016, pending the approval of the Higher Education Coordinating Commission and the Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities. The motion carried.

6. Adjournment

With no further discussion or business proposed, the meeting was adjourned at 2:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Mark C. Huey
Assistant Board Secretary