



Oregon State
University

The Board of Trustees of Oregon State University

Meeting of the Academic Strategies Committee

October 27, 2022

2:20 – 5:05 p.m.

Memorial Union, Horizon Room

Corvallis, OR

MINUTES

Committee Members Present: Preston Pulliams (*chair*), Julie Manning (*vice chair*), Maria Chávez-Haroldson, Michele Longo Eder (*via Zoom*), Ed Feser (*ex officio*), Kirk Schueler (*ex officio*), Inara Scott, Irem Tumer (*ex officio*)

Committee Members Absent: Lamar Hurd

Other Trustees Present: Rani Borkar (*via Zoom*), Darry Callahan, Susan Clark, Jayathi Murthy (*ex officio*)

University Staff Present: Jackie Bangs, Steve Clark, Susan Freccia, Alix Gitelman, Becca Gose, Mike Green, Jen Humphreys, Stacy Jeffries, Ivory Lyles, Deb Mott, Kristen Nielsen (*via Zoom*), Holly Ober, Paul Odenthal, Shalece Rains, Rick Settersten, Jeff Sherman, Patti Snopkowski, Scott Vignos

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

Committee Chair Preston Pulliams called to the meeting to order. Assistant Board Secretary Jen Humphreys called the roll and noted a quorum.

2. Provost's Report

a. Status Report: New and Existing Academic Program Reviews and Professional Accreditations in Progress

Ed Feser, provost and executive vice president, provided updates in the areas of academic programs, research, student engagement on campus, information technology, and labor relations. Highlights included:

- Course modalities: nearly 100% of sections being taught remotely during the pandemic are now back on campus
- Status update on the development of OSU's enrollment strategy, led by John Boeckenstedt and Tim Carroll, co-chairs of the Enrollment Management Strategy Task Force
- Approval of new general education curriculum by the faculty senate in Oct. 2022 and next steps in implementation
- OSU's active involvement in statewide efforts around common course numbering
- Record high \$471.5M in research awards (22% increase from prior year)
- Fall 2022 launch of Research Impact and Advancement Academy (20 fellows in the first cohort)
- Administrative Modernization Program—a comprehensive project to update OSU's 34-year-old

administrative technology system and associated revision of business processes—that will be overviewed for the Board in Jan. 2023

- Reopener with CGE (graduate student union) completed in July 2022; negotiations for a successor contract for OSU faculty to open in fall 2023; contract for SEIU in place through June 30, 2026
- OSU's part in developing AXS Companion, a free online resource for prospective students who use the Common App, through a partnership with the Division of Enrollment Management and Ecampus. AXS Companion supports users of the Common App regardless of the schools they apply to (not limited to OSU)

In response to questions from trustees, Feser said the newly adopted General Education Curriculum would improve the transfer process by a significant margin; it's smaller, simpler and aligns with the state's Core Transfer Map. He said OSU had one of the most complicated baccalaureate core curriculums in Oregon and that U of O was out of the gate faster in retooling their curriculum to better serve transfer students, among other objectives.

3. Consent Agenda

a. Minutes of the May 26, 2022 Meeting of the Academic Strategies Committee

A motion was made and seconded to approve the consent agenda. There was no discussion, and the motion carried.

4. Action Items

a. 2023 Academic Strategies Committee Work Plan and 2022 Board Assessment Results

Committee chair Preston Pulliams cited both positive notes and categories that lost ground from the 2022 board assessment results. He welcomed discussion from trustees.

Discussion focused on the following: the importance of trustees having an opportunity to request and discuss information; addressing the complexities of certain topics that come to the board; the inherent challenges of dealing with the committee's vast portfolio; striking the right balance between providing didactic content and having opportunity for discussion; and self-reflection made by newer committee members in learning mode.

Pulliams noted that the work plan will help organize the broad portfolio of the committee into six categories to address for 2023. He then invited President Jayathi Murthy to share her priorities in terms of what direction the committee should take, which she identified as follows:

- Focus on student access and student success, along with addressing complexities tied to enrollment management; and
- The possibilities of Ecampus and the need to come to a decision about its scope and scale – how big it should get, what programs it should offer, and how it should be priced.

A motion was made and seconded to approve the 2023 Academic Strategies Committee Work Plan. There was no further discussion, and the motion carried.

~~b. Workplace Safety, including risk management report~~

Note: This item was moved to the Discussion Items section of the agenda.

c. Academic Program Approval: B.S. in Teaching at OSU-Corvallis

Alix Gitelman, vice provost for academic affairs and senior vice provost, and Kristen Nielsen, associate dean of educator preparation programs in the College of Education, introduced a proposal to extend the Bachelor of Science in Teaching from OSU-Cascades to OSU's Corvallis campus.

Corvallis currently has a five-year program that gives students a B.S. / B.A. in a specific field as well as a degree in education. Nielsen stated that replacing this model with a four-year program is in keeping with national trends and aims to reduce barriers to completion and increase diversity within the program.

There was discussion on the following topics: moving teachers into the pipeline more quickly to address workforce shortages; creative pathways to the classroom (students working as full-time teachers before they complete their degrees); performance of the program on the Cascades campus; and opportunities for abbreviated post-secondary degrees.

A motion was made and seconded to approve extension of the B.S. in Teaching to the Corvallis campus effective spring 2023 (pending approval of the Higher Education Coordinating Commission). The motion carried.

5. Discussion Items**a. Faculty Affairs Briefing**

Rick Settersten, vice provost for faculty affairs, delivered the annual briefing on faculty affairs.

Settersten cited significant questions about the future of higher education and noted that two groups were being charged to address issues: a University Work Task Force that would be operational in focus and a multi-year Future of University Work Project that would be more visionary in focus. Settersten also stressed the need to grow university support for faculty and leaders and become an employer of choice. He cited the work of the President and Provost's Leadership Council on Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (PPLC), which has spent the past year thinking comprehensively about the retention and success of employees of color.

Settersten cited examples of how the university is working to prioritize a culture of care, including experiments for "flexible Friday" afternoons over the summer and a meeting-free quiet week at the end of August.

Trustees engaged Settersten in discussion about the following topics: tracking the efforts of OSU's peer institutions and similar work groups; reconstituting/recharging the Pay Equity Work Group; cross-referencing data sets to determine the likelihood of students being taught by full-time, tenure-track professors (Provost Feser suggested cross-referencing teaching load by instructor and data on classifications); tracking metrics for managerial competencies and new onboarding practices; and assessing OSU's continued support of faculty development through the career arc.

Scott Vignos, interim vice president and chief diversity officer, was called on to answer Committee Chair Pulliams' question about the SREB (Southern Regional Education Board) Institute for Teaching and Mentoring, which helps OSU recruit excellent doctoral candidates and allows OSU students to

enroll in the SREB doctoral fellows program.

b. Extension and Engagement Briefing and Discussion

In attendance to present the briefing and lead discussion were Ivory Lyles, vice provost for extension and engagement; Holly Ober, associate dean for science outreach in the College of Forestry; and Jeff Sherman, director and program leader of OSU Open Campus in the Division of Extension and Engagement.

Lyles began by noting that the Division of Extension and Engagement works to enable OSU to be the statewide university for Oregon. OSU has a physical presence in every county and one Tribal Nation and operates with a mandate to help every Oregonian thrive.

Sherman discussed OSU's diversity of youth programs and their positive impact. Highlighted statistics included: more than 15,700 young people in Oregon participating in 4-H clubs, camps and school programs in the last year, and 26 equity, diversity and inclusion grants issued and over \$5M distributed by the Outdoor School to school districts and providers in the 2020-2021 school year.

Ober provided examples of OSU impact in the categories of "healthy environment" (coordinated response to the invasive emerald ash borer); "healthy economy" (Oregon's status as #1 in the country for Christmas tree production); and "healthy communities" (team of faculty tasked with reducing fire risk as frequency and intensity increases).

Trustees engaged Lyles, Sherman and Ober in discussion on the following topics: how the Division of Extension and Engagement helps OSU decide which issues to address, given the broad scope of possible topics and opportunities; how advocacy topics are identified (local needs that rise to the statewide level through advisory councils in each county, the state council, and a separate directors' council); and what it would take to counter growing public sentiment that college is no longer a value proposition and bring more students into higher education by delivering programs like Juntos to everyone in Oregon.

Individual trustees (Chávez-Haroldson, Clark, Longo Eder and Scott) shared positive personal experiences with 4-H programs and voiced overwhelming support for the work done by OSU in the area of extension and public engagement.

Committee Vice Chair Julie Manning noted the high positive ratings from those who access Extension and engagement programs and emphasized that the Extension Service is vital to OSU's land grant mission.

Jennifer Alexander, director of communications for the Division of Extension and Engagement, was on hand to answer questions about the results of the 2022 public opinion survey, noting that statewide public opinion research is conducted every six to eight years.

c. Workplace Safety, including risk management report

This report was presented by Paul Odenthal, senior associate vice president for administration, and Tom Doyle, director of environmental health and safety.

Odenthal prefaced the report and discussion with a note that working on safety and safety culture is a continuous improvement process. He highlighted the results of this year's Oregon DEQ inspection, which found zero violations and earned OSU accolades as the model institution for hazardous waste

management for the state of Oregon.

Doyle outlined some next steps, which include implementing the 11 recommendations of the Workplace Safety Culture Task Force and conducting a university-wide safety perception survey in partnership with the National Safety Council. He highlighted a handful of recommendations from the task force, including: restructuring the University Health and Safety Committee; focusing on safety messaging; and integrating safety into course syllabi and learning outcomes (particularly for STEM courses) based on hazards involved.

Trustees engaged in discussion with Doyle and Odenthal regarding implementing emergency drills that are meaningful to frontline employees; identifying hazards that employees encounter as part of their work to help guide training; distributing the safety perception survey university wide; analyzing the survey results anonymously (which will be done through the National Safety Council); and sharing the results with the board.

6. Adjournment

With no other discussion or business, Committee Chair Pulliams adjourned the meeting.

Respectfully Submitted,



Stacy Jeffries
Executive Assistant, Office of the Board of Trustees