



**Oregon State  
University**

## The Board of Trustees of Oregon State University

### Meeting of the Executive, Audit and Governance Committee

March 7, 2025

8:00 – 9:05 a.m.

Virtual meeting held by Zoom

### MINUTES

Committee members present: Julia Brim-Edwards, Maria Chávez-Haroldson (*vice chair*), Román Hernández (*chair*), Julie Manning, Elise McClure, Jayathi Murthy (*ex-officio*)

Other trustees present: Kasaundra (Kassy) Bonanno, Stephanie Bulger, Kate Carter-Cram, Susan Clark, Grant Kitamura, Greg Macpherson, Camille Palmer

University staff present: Andrea Ballinger, Jackie Bangs, Katie Fast, Ed Feser, Alix Gitelman, Lynn Gonzalez, Becca Gose, Carla Ho'ā, Jen Humphreys, Stacy Jeffries, David McMorries, Paul Odenthal, Rob Odom, Julee Otter, Patti Snopkowski, Irem Tumer, Scott Vignos

#### 1. Call to Order / Roll Call / Land Acknowledgement / Declaration of a Quorum

Chair Román Hernández called the meeting to order at 8:00 a.m. Board Secretary Jackie Bangs called the roll and verified a quorum.

Chair Hernández delivered the university's land acknowledgment statement.

#### 2. Consent agenda

- a. **Minutes of the Jan. 16, 2025, Executive, Audit and Governance Committee Meeting**
- b. **Minutes of the Jan. 16, 2025, Joint Meeting of the Executive, Audit and Governance and Finance and Administration Committees**

The chair sought a motion to approve the consent agenda. A motion was made by Trustee Brim-Edwards, seconded by Trustee Chávez-Haroldson and approved by all committee members in attendance. The motion carried.

#### 3. Action items

##### a. **Office of Audit, Risk and Compliance Progress Report**

Deputy Chief Executive of Audit and Risk Julee Otter and Director of the Integrity Hotline Program Lynn Gonzalez provided a progress report for the Office of Audit, Risk and Compliance (OARC).

Otter highlighted the activities of the office's audit function. She covered the results of the audit reports issued, including follow-up reports and the status of the audit plan. She provided takeaways from key audits, including:

- Final Construction Audit Report for the PRAX building: Otter noted that no material issues were found, but areas for ongoing project management improvements were identified.

- Administrative Modernization Program (AMP) Governance Audit: Otter reported that established foundational practices were in place to support successful implementation of the AMP, and that additional reviews will be conducted to confirm the foundation is working as intended.
- NCAA Financial Statement Agreed-Upon Procedures: Otter noted no exceptions were found in the procedures performed.

Otter also mentioned the follow-up reviews conducted every six months to confirm that action plans developed in response to audit recommendations were implemented and mitigating risks. She reported that most recommendations were implemented, reflecting management's commitment to addressing findings and managing risks.

She added that some IT recommendations remained past due and that there were some delays in the procurement audit due to new leadership.

Otter concluded her presentation with a look at audit activities and plans moving forward. She noted that the 2025 audit plan remains on track, with current projects listed and results to be shared at the next board meeting. She announced that recruitment for two new auditor positions is underway.

Gonzalez covered key aspects of the hotline program – an important component of an effective compliance program that allows the campus community to report suspected wrongdoing quickly and anonymously.

She added that the hotline helps maintain credibility with key funding partners by detecting issues early, addressing potential financial irregularities, research misconduct and grant mismanagement before they escalate.

Gonzalez reviewed ways to analyze hotline data to measure its success and effectiveness, including an annual benchmark with peer institutions and evaluation of the sources of complaints.

She outlined plans for improving the hotline program, including increased training and outreach efforts, meetings with investigative office partners and updates with the hotline provider to increase reporting and analytics functionality within the system.

The following topics were addressed in discussion with trustees:

In response to a question from Chair Hernández, Gonzalez explained that the spike of 51 complaints under instruction and academic support was due to increased engagement from students.

Trustee Brim-Edwards asked about the trend of complaints compared to previous years, and Gonzalez confirmed that reporting is trending toward more complaints from students in the category of instruction and academic support. Chief Executive of Audit, Risk and Compliance Patti Snopkowski provided additional context, explaining that the trend of increased complaints from students was positive, indicating that students are aware of the hotline as a resource and a safety net.

Vice Chair Maria Chávez-Haroldson commended the effectiveness and accessibility of the hotline and the OARC's collaborative efforts with other departments.

Trustee Brim-Edwards asked if there was any way to follow up on anonymous complaints to assess if the person making the report felt the issue had been dealt with, and Gonzalez noted the challenges of obtaining that information due to privacy concerns.

The chair sought a motion to accept the Office of Audit, Risk and Compliance progress report. A motion was made by Trustee Brim-Edwards, seconded by Trustee Manning and approved by all committee members in attendance. The motion carried.

#### **4. Discussion items**

##### **b. Information Technology Ecosystem/Security, including risk management report**

Vice Provost for Information Technology and Chief Information Officer Andrea Ballinger and Chief Information Security Officer David McMorries provided an overview of information technology ecosystem/security, including a risk management report.

Ballinger discussed the data modernization pathway, stating that the goal was to create a data enterprise that is agile, competitive and secure. She added that significant progress has been made using the Microsoft Data Fabric product.

She reported that her team is responsible for the Data and Information Technology Action Plan to align IT activities with the goals of *Prosperity Widely Shared*, the university's strategic plan. She added that the transition has been smooth due to foundational work done under the previous strategic plan.

Ballinger announced that preparation for AI tools at OSU is underway, with the second annual AI week scheduled for April 28 – May 2, 2025. She also noted the development of a roadmap for research computing to ensure adequate computing power for high-end AI research and other institutional needs.

She reported that efforts are being made to simplify IT choices and platforms, focusing on resilience and disaster recovery by leveraging cloud computing and state data centers.

She noted that the IT security program is based on the NIST (National Institute of Standards and Technology) security framework, operationalized as "smart access" to ensure secure access to OSU assets.

In his portion of the presentation, McMorries focused on improvements made in the information security program.

He reported that the OSU team had assessed the maturity of its program against the NIST framework and found an overall increase in maturity of about 28% since 2019, with significant improvements in the areas of detection and response.

McMorries stated that OSU faces various cybersecurity threats, noting that education and research have become a top target for cyber actors worldwide.

He reported that Microsoft provides first-level screening to protect OSU, blocking spam, phishing and malware emails, with the OSU Security Operations Center (SOC) handling incidents not screened by Microsoft. He noted that the SOC managed nearly 10,000 incidents over a 30-day period, leveraging AI and automation to respond to incidents within minutes.

McMorries said the OSU community plays a crucial role in reporting threats and enhancing cybersecurity awareness and that student workers in the SOC gain valuable experience and contribute to the program.

The following topics were addressed in conversation with trustees:

Vice Chair Chávez-Haroldson asked about student involvement in the Information Security Committee. McMorries confirmed that the eight students currently working in the SOC are invited to committee meetings and provide input, although they are not chartered members.

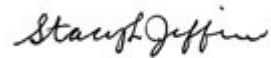
Trustee Bulger commented on the benefits of a scenario exercise conducted by the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA). Ballinger acknowledged the value of such exercises and confirmed that OSU has conducted them.

Chair Hernández emphasized the importance of vigilance and raising awareness of phishing.

**5. Adjournment**

With no further discussion or business before the committee, Chair Hernández adjourned the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,



Stacy Jeffries  
Executive Assistant, Office of the Board of Trustees