



Oregon State
University

The Board of Trustees of Oregon State University

Meeting of the OSU Board of Trustees

May 9, 2025

9:15 a.m. – 4:20 p.m.

Memorial Union Horizon Rm. | Corvallis, OR

MINUTES

Trustees present: Kasaundra (Kassy) Bonanno, Julia Brim-Edwards, Stephanie Bulger, Kate Carter-Cram, Karla Chambers, Maria Chávez-Haroldson, Susan Clark, Lisa Hale, Román Hernández (*chair*), Grant Kitamura, Toby Luther, Greg Macpherson, Julie Manning, Elise McClure, Marlena (MJ) Mirho (*nonvoting member*), Jayathi Murthy (*ex officio*), Camille Palmer

University staff: Jackie Bangs, Jessica Brubaker, Bruce Daley, Tom DeLuca, Kevin Dougherty, Ed Feser, Alix Gitelman, Becca Gose, Brent Gustafson, Carla Ho'ā, Jen Humphreys, Stacy Jeffries, Stephen Jenkins, Deb Mott, Shannon Murray, Nicole Neuschwander, Vincent Nguyen, Paul Odenthal, Melanie Rose, Patti Snopkowski, Mark Swanson, Irem Tumer, Scott Vignos

Invited guests: Penny Atkins (OSUF), Ben Cannon (HECC), Whitney McFarlane (ASCC), Audrey Schlotter (ASOSU), Andrew Valls (Faculty Senate)

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

Board Chair Román Hernández called the meeting to order at 9:15 a.m. Board Secretary Jackie Bangs called the roll and verified a quorum.

Chair Hernández delivered the university's land acknowledgment.

2. Opening comments and reports

a. Chair's comments

Board Chair Román Hernández thanked students from the University Legislative Scholars Program and David Rothwell, director of the program and associate professor in the College of Health, for joining trustees for breakfast before the meeting.

Hernández expressed gratitude for the service of trustees concluding their terms: Trustee Kassy Bonanno, Trustee Julia Brim-Edwards, Trustee Susan Clark and Trustee MJ Mirho.

The chair provided an update on the reopening of President Murthy's contract, a responsibility delegated to him by the board in October 2024. He noted that the president had expressed interest in a new five-year contract, which the chair strongly supports given the president's exceptional leadership.

Hernández reported he had commissioned a survey of executive compensation at peer institutions by the Association of Governing Boards (AGB). He noted that, with support from Vice President and General Counsel Becca Gose and Board Secretary Jackie Bangs, outside

counsel had been engaged to guide the process, mirroring the approach used for the original contract.

The chair reported that discussions with President Murthy will continue over the summer, with a formal report and recommendation for a new five-year contract presented to the board in October along with the ABG compensation survey. He added that the Executive, Audit and Governance Committee would review the recommendation at its Oct. 23 meeting, followed by a vote by the full board on Oct. 24.

Hernández added that, if the board approves, a letter will be sent to the chair of the OSU Foundation Board of Trustees to request their contribution to the president's total compensation.

In closing, Hernández expressed enthusiasm for recognizing President Murthy's leadership and fulfilling the board's responsibility to ensure appropriate compensation.

b. President's report

President Murthy expressed appreciation for Chair Hernandez's leadership and affirmed her ongoing commitment to OSU.

The president provided an overview of enrollment and strategic planning, noting that fall enrollment is progressing well for both first year and transfer students despite uncertainties in the federal landscape.

She provided an update on leadership transitions and organizational alignment, reporting that the search for a new provost and executive vice president was nearing completion after recent campus visits from four finalists.

She noted that Human Resources had been realigned under the Division of Finance and Administration, with a dotted line to the provost, and that the Division of Student Affairs would now report directly to the president, reflecting its importance to student success.

President Murthy announced that Patti Snopkowski would step down from her position as chief executive of audit, risk and compliance on July 15 and that a search was underway for Snopkowski's successor.

The president reported that all 13 international students affected by recent visa terminations have had their records reinstated, adding that OSU provided legal and holistic support, including declarations and participation in an amicus brief challenging federal actions against non-citizen students and scholars.

She noted that over 300 employees had attended the inaugural "Every Student Graduates" student success summit, focusing on pedagogy, advising, student well-being and data analytics. She announced a second summit – "Big Discoveries, Big Solutions" – scheduled for Oct. 20, 2025.

President Murthy reported that OSU's annual economic impact in the state of Oregon exceeds \$3.5B, adding that alumni contribute \$260B in career-long impact and support 1.4M jobs. She added that the economic impact report also highlights OSU's influence across diverse sectors, from AI and robotics to food products.

She spoke about industry collaboration, reporting that OSU leaders had visited Agility Robotics, a company co-founded by OSU Professor Jonathan Hurst that has raised \$250M from investors and employs over 120 people in Oregon. She added that OSU and Agility had signed a new agreement to deepen collaboration in AI and humanoid robotics.

The president announced the completed \$71M renovation of Withycombe Hall and the opening celebration of the Beaver Classics Creamery, noting that OSU continues its partnership with the lead donor for the project, the Tillamook County Creamery Association.

She provided an update on athletics, noting that OSU had secured a 2025 media rights deal with The CW, ESPN and CBS ensuring national coverage. She emphasized that the academic excellence of student-athletes remains a point of pride.

In closing, the president reported that OSU's annual day of giving – Dam Proud Day – raised \$3.4M from 11,000 gifts – a 26% increase over the previous year. She added that the second annual AI Week featured events with partners like Nvidia and Microsoft and emphasized ethical and innovative AI use.

c. Associated Students of Oregon State University Report

ASOSU President Audrey Schlotter delivered her final report to the board, emphasizing the challenges and rewards of student leadership and expressing pride in the accomplishments of the ASOSU team.

She reported on a student voter registration competition with the University of Oregon to promote civic participation and noted that OSU students had participated in a successful Lobby Day in Salem, advocating for higher education funding alongside the Beaver Caucus and Alumni Association. Schlotter reported that she and her peers had organized a student-led lobby day on May 7 to maintain advocacy momentum after the dissolution of the Oregon Student Association.

On the national level, Schlotter and her peers from both the Corvallis and Cascades campuses spent a week in Washington, D.C., lobbying for affordable housing, climate action and healthcare.

Schlotter highlighted several student-centered initiatives, including a free at-home STI testing program; 24-hour library pilots during finals week; clothing swaps; and weekly international student community hours.

She stressed the importance of fiscal responsibility, noting that the student incidental fee increase had been held to just 1.6% - below historical trends.

Schlotter addressed internal challenges within ASOSU, reporting that the pause on ASOSU operations was extended to allow time for structural repair and compliance with state laws and OSU requirements. She expressed hope that the next administration would continue the work of reform.

In closing, Schlotter described her term as the most challenging and rewarding year of her life, expressing deep appreciation for the students, colleagues and administrators who supported her.

In response to a question from Board Secretary Bangs about the process for recruiting student trustees, Schlotter reported that the names of two potential student trustees had been submitted to the Governor's Office.

Vice Chair Chávez-Haroldson commended Schlotter's courage and quoted her reflection on OSU's impact: "OSU has shown me who I am and who I want to become."

d. Associated Students of Cascades Campus report

ASCC President Whitney McFarlane began her report with updates on student services and sustainability, noting that utilization of housing and childcare subsidies had declined, which is typical near the end of the academic year.

She reported that food pantry usage had grown significantly, especially with the new grocery store model and the addition of perishables. She added that partnerships with Bigfoot Beverages and local pantries were expanding support and noted the continuation of a composting program in residence halls.

McFarlane reported that the trial role of director of student affinity experiences was on track to become a permanent position. She noted the introduction of six affinity groups: Asian American/Pacific Islander; Black Student Union; First-Generation Students; Gender and Sexuality Alliance; Latinx; and Disabled Students.

McFarlane noted that ASCC members attended three Ways and Means Committee hearings and testified in support of the Cascades Capital Construction Project. In addition, students participated in OSU-Cascades Lobby Day on May 5 and the Oregon Students Speak Up Lobby Day on May 7 to advocate for funding priorities like the Oregon Opportunity Grant and Public University Support Fund.

McFarlane noted her participation in the Student Trustee Selection Committee and her role in helping recommend candidates to the Governor's Office.

She reported that a new third branch of student government – the Judicial Affairs Committee (JAC) – would launch in June 2025 with three members with the stated goal of upholding the ASCC's values of transparency, communication and efficiency.

McFarlane reported that Dam Proud Day raised over \$100K for OSU-Cascades. She noted the upcoming mini golf tournament fundraiser for the student emergency fund on May 16 and the day of service on May 19, which would include assembling food bags for K-12 students affected by funding cuts.

McFarlane thanked ASOSU President Audrey Schlotter for her mentorship and partnership in strengthening ties between ASOSU and ASCC and expressed appreciation to the board for their support.

ASCC Vice President Allison Barr provided updates on the Cascades Student Fee Committee, noting the challenges of operating without a budget manager or historical documentation. She reported that the committee had developed a sustainable budgeting framework with clear guidelines, deadlines and communication standards modeled after the University Budget Committee.

Barr reported that the student professional development fund had allocated over \$3500 for 22 students to attend conferences and obtain certifications. She added that reflections from recipients highlighted the transformative impact of the funding on their academic and career aspirations.

Trustee Mirho commended McFarlane's role in the student trustee selection process.

Vice Chair Chávez-Haroldson complimented McFarlane and Barr for focusing on food security initiatives, emphasizing their importance to student success.

e. Faculty Senate Report

Faculty Senate President Andrew Valls began his report with an overview of key activities for the faculty senate, including implementation of the new Core Education curriculum; approval of academic regulations and curriculum proposals in time for the next course catalog; and coordination of student and faculty awards.

Valls acknowledged growing anxiety among faculty due to national uncertainties affecting teaching and research. He cited concerns about academic freedom and issues related to grant cancellations, extensions and changes in overhead returns.

He reported that the Research Office continues to guide and encourage grant submissions and that a webinar on academic freedom is planned to support faculty in navigating complex teaching environments.

Valls provided comments on the student success summit, noting strong faculty participation and emphasizing that the goal of "Every Student Graduates" could be reached without lowering academic standards. He stressed that inclusivity and excellence are not mutually exclusive.

He spoke about AI Week, noting that faculty are exploring AI's potential to enhance critical thinking, assignment design, grading and instruction. He added that the Center for Teaching and Learning offers robust support for faculty integrating AI into their pedagogy.

Valls announced Professor Melissa Cheyney, OSU's newest Distinguished Professor, and recognized new endowed chairs.

In closing, he expressed hope for greater stability but affirmed the faculty's resilience and dedication and extended a standing invitation to Chair Hernández to address the faculty senate.

Trustee Manning asked about evaluating the new core curriculum. Valls explained that assessment is built into course design, with tools being developed to extract data from Canvas to monitor student outcomes and identify those needing support.

f. OSU Foundation report

Penny Atkins, chair of the OSU Foundation Board of Trustees, joined the meeting by Zoom to provide an update on foundation activities.

Atkins expressed appreciation for the opportunity to honor OSU faculty at the previous evening's faculty excellence dinner and gave an overview of the mission of the OSU foundation, which includes engaging the community, inspiring investment in Oregon State and stewarding resources to support the university's activities.

She provided recent engagement highlights, noting that Dam Proud Day on April 30 had record-breaking results for the fifth consecutive year with over \$3.4M raised from more than 11,000 gifts and participation from all 50 states and 21 countries. She added that OSU Athletics received over \$1M in donations across 21 sports and programs.

She also mentioned the Volunteer Leadership Summit on April 25, which provides an opportunity to celebrate the collective impact of OSU volunteers and strengthen volunteer relationships and advocacy for university priorities.

Atkins provided a fundraising update, noting that donors had given \$157.19M as of April 30. She announced plans to exceed the stretch goal of \$180M by June 30 and expressed gratitude to donors for their support.

She provided information on the university's endowment, which is recovering from recent fluctuations and closed the third quarter of the fiscal year with a market value of \$951.2M, down slightly from the Feb. 2025 peak of \$965.7M, the highest in OSU's history.

Chair Hernández emphasized the close partnership between the two boards, noting the OSU Foundation Board's integral role in the university's success.

Vice Chair Chávez-Haroldson expressed appreciation for the opportunity to build collaborative relationships with the OSU Foundation Board during the previous day's joint meeting of the two boards and commended Atkins' leadership.

Trustee Macpherson commented on the value of the joint meeting and commended the foundation for fostering shared learning opportunities.

3. Consent agenda

- a. Minutes of the March 14, 2025, Meeting of the Board of Trustees**
- b. Minutes of the March 14, 2025, Executive Session of the Board of Trustees (Tualatin Mountain Forest Acquisition)**
- c. Minutes of the March 14, 2025, Executive Session of the Board of Trustees (Federal Administration Actions)**

A motion to approve the consent agenda was made by Trustee Manning and seconded by Trustee Chambers. The consent agenda was approved by all board members in attendance: Trustee Bonanno, Trustee Brim-Edwards, Trustee Bulger, Trustee Carter-Cram, Trustee Chambers, Vice Chair Chávez-Haroldson, Trustee Clark, Trustee Hale, Chair Hernández, Trustee Kitamura, Trustee Luther, Trustee Macpherson, Trustee Manning, Trustee McClure and Trustee Palmer.

4. Discussion item

- a. Higher Education Coordinating Commission (HECC) Update**

Ben Cannon, executive director of the Higher Education Coordinating Commission (HECC), provided an in-depth update in place of his usual standing report to the board.

He spoke about HECC's role and scope, citing its mission to ensure that all Oregonians benefit from high-quality post-secondary education, training and workforce development. He noted that HECC oversees a \$4.1B biennial budget, 83% of which is distributed directly to institutions and students.

Cannon spoke about key challenges and pressing concerns, including declining public confidence in higher education and demographic shifts (e.g., the "enrollment cliff"). He noted that rising costs were prompting calls for better alignment between education and career outcomes and mentioned that technological change – especially AI – presents both opportunities and challenges.

Cannon emphasized the return on investment (ROI) of higher education, which significantly boosts earnings and social mobility, especially for low-income students. He added that access remains inequitable, with only 9.8% of students in Oregon's higher education system coming from the lowest income quintile despite the outsized benefits gained for that demographic. He said HECC recognizes the need to expand access and improve completion rates, particularly for students with "some college, no degree" – noting that Oregon ranks among the highest in the nation in this category.

Cannon provided an overview of funding trends, reporting that Oregon ranks 37th nationally in per-student funding for public higher education, though it has improved from 49th a decade ago. He noted that Oregon has had one of the fastest increases in per-student funding since 2011 but still lags the national average.

He spoke about HECC's legislative and policy engagement, noting they work closely with the Legislature to advocate for higher education funding. He acknowledged the difficulty in quantifying the impact of increased funding but stressed the need for clearer, outcome-based messaging.

Trustee Chambers asked about state funding per student in K-12. Cannon said it is considerably more than for higher ed, but did not have exact figures. He expressed a desire to make K-12 funding and higher education funding per student more proportional.

Trustee Kitamura asked if the Economic Revenue Forecast expected on May 14 would reflect how the \$4.1B budget for the biennium would be affected, and Cannon said the forecast would influence how much the Legislature was able to budget for higher education.

Trustee Kitamura then asked about a chart in Cannon's report showing that 17% of expenses are fixed (for debt services and administration) and 83% of the budget goes directly to institutions. Cannon confirmed that debt service is fixed but said agency administration is not, adding it was likely that reductions to the public higher education budget would affect institutions and agency administration proportionally.

Trustee Macpherson asked about advocacy efforts for higher education and if there might be more convincing arguments for changing the Legislature's resource allocation than focusing on comparisons to other states. Cannon said a more compelling pitch to legislators is to show how their increased investment in higher education will impact Oregon, though he acknowledged the difficulty of stating with precision what increased investment would mean.

Trustee Macpherson then asked how to target the demographic of Oregonians with some college but no degree. Cannon said there was a big opportunity to reconnect those adults with education and that he recommended exploring a statewide model, rather than having institutions tackle the issue individually.

Trustee Chávez-Haroldson thanked Cannon for addressing equitable outcomes and access.

President Murthy highlighted an economic impact study conducted by an outside consultant, which indicated OSU's \$3.9B annual economic impact to the state. She pointed to the study as a compelling case for investment in higher education.

Trustee Manning asked Cannon's opinion on the state funding conundrum and the implicit framework around looking at higher education with a focus on its other sources of revenue. Cannon agreed with Manning's assessment and said it was a nationwide phenomenon. He said changing established thinking is a profound challenge.

5. Public comments

There was no public comment.

6. Reports of standing committees of the board

a. Academic Strategies Committee

Committee Chair Julie Manning provided a brief overview of the May 8, 2025, meeting of the Academic Strategies Committee.

(For full details, see meeting minutes and the posted recording.)

b. Finance and Administration Committee

Committee Chair Elise McClure provided a summary of the May 8, 2025, Finance and Administration Committee meeting.

(Full details are available in the posted recording and will be included in the meeting minutes.)

c. Executive, Audit and Governance Committee

Board Chair Román Hernández summarized the May 8, 2025, meeting of the Executive, Audit and Governance Committee (EAGC).

(Full details are available in the posted recording and will be included in the meeting minutes.)

7. Action items

a.—Ten-Year Business Forecast Update

b. FY2026 Operating Budget

Finance and Administration Committee Chair Elise McClure invited Vice President for Finance and Administration Carla Ho'ā and Associate Vice President for Budget and Resource Planning Brent Gustafson to recap the presentation they shared with the committee at the previous day's meeting.

Chair McClure noted that the committee had approved the operating budget after robust discussion with Ho‘ā and Gustafson about risks, uncertainties and opportunities.

Gustafson began by providing an overview of the three major operating funds:

1. **Education and General (E&G) Fund**
 - Over \$1B – primary source of flexible funding
 - Includes tuition and fees, state support (Public University Support Fund) and indirect cost recovery from research
2. **Self-Support Funds**
 - Includes housing, dining, athletics and parking
3. **Restricted Funds**
 - Includes federal research grants, financial aid (e.g., Pell Grants), and donor-restricted gifts.

Gustafson also provided background on revenue trends, noting that OSU has experienced consistent revenue growth due to enrollment and research expansion, with a slight decline in restricted funds anticipated in FY26 due to reduced federal research funding and the completion of major projects like PacWave.

He gave an overview of budget development and realignment, noting that a 5.2% reduction in planned expenditures was implemented across administrative and academic units. He clarified that reductions were tailored to each unit's circumstances and strategic priorities. Gustafson reported that the budget also includes contractual and merit-based compensation increases; a 1% contingency reserve; and a 1% reserve for strategic investments.

He cited the following as major risks and uncertainties:

1. **Federal Research Funding:**
 - 88% of OSU's \$422M in research expenditures comes from federal sources
 - FY25 indirect cost recovery was \$55M, with a negotiated rate of 48.5%
 - A 1% reduction in recovery equates to ~\$900K loss
2. **State Appropriations:**
 - OSU's projected share of the Public University Support Fund is \$193.2M
 - A flat current service level (CSL) could reduce funding by 0.77%; a reduced CSL could mean a 1.2% cut
3. **Enrollment Volatility:**
 - International students (~2,150) contribute ~\$35K each in tuition
 - Federal policy changes or global demand shifts could impact this revenue stream
 - OSU is exploring domestic enrollment strategies to mitigate potential losses
4. **Federal Student Loan Policy:**
 - Proposed risk-sharing model could cost OSU ~\$4.5M annually
 - Not yet included in the FY26 budget due to uncertainty.

Gustafson emphasized that OSU is committed to avoiding premature or excessive cuts that could harm morale or long-term planning. He said the goal was to align budget decisions with the university's strategic plan, *Prosperity Widely Shared*.

Trustee Mirho asked if OSU was partnering with HECC to focus on student retention and enrollment growth. Carla Ho'ā replied that the university has an ongoing partnership with HECC and engages in conversation with other institutions in Oregon and across the nation. Ho'ā added that the best thing the university can do to promote student success is to improve retention and graduation rates, which produces the best outcome revenue-wise as well.

Trustee McClure acknowledged that this year's budget has a higher level of uncertainty than previous years and said she appreciated the additional work Ho'ā's team did to put numbers around those risks.

Chair Hernández sought a motion to approve the operating budget for fiscal year 2026. A motion was made by Trustee Luther, seconded by Trustee Chambers and approved by all board members in attendance: Trustee Bonanno, Trustee Brim-Edwards, Trustee Bulger, Trustee Carter-Cram, Trustee Chambers, Vice Chair Chávez-Haroldson, Trustee Clark, Trustee Hale, Chair Hernández, Trustee Kitamura, Trustee Luther, Trustee Macpherson, Trustee Manning, Trustee McClure and Trustee Palmer. The motion carried.

c. Capital Project Stage Gate II: Dixon Recreation Center Improvements

Finance and Administration Committee Chair Elise McClure provided a summary of the capital project at stage gate II for improvements to the Dixon Recreation Center, which the Finance and Administration Committee previously approved for consideration by the full board.

Bruce Daley, associate vice president for University Facilities, Infrastructure and Operations and Bill Callender, associate director for facilities and risk management for Recreational Sports, were on hand to answer questions.

Chair McClure cited a total budget of \$11.5M for the project, which will be fully funded by the Department of Recreational Sports building fund reserves and will also eliminate approx. \$7.7M in deferred maintenance.

She added that the budget includes contingency funds to address potential tariffs on construction materials and unforeseen site conditions. She reported that the project will optimize space utilization for the nearly 800,000 annual visitors to the Dixon Recreation Center and has a target completion date of fall 2026.

Board Chair Hernández sought a motion to approve a capital project budget of \$11.5M for the Dixon Recreation Center improvements project and advance the project to the construction phase.

A motion was made by Trustee Brim-Edwards, seconded by Trustee Hale and approved by all board members in attendance: Trustee Bonanno, Trustee Brim-Edwards, Trustee Bulger, Trustee Carter-Cram, Trustee Chambers, Vice Chair Chávez-Haroldson, Trustee Clark, Trustee Hale, Chair Hernández, Trustee Kitamura, Trustee Luther, Trustee Macpherson, Trustee Manning, Trustee McClure and Trustee Palmer. The motion carried.

8. Discussion Items

a. Federal Landscape Update

A discussion of the evolving federal policy and funding landscape was led by Vice President for Finance and Administration Carla Ho‘ā, Director of Federal Relations Gabrielle Serra, Vice President for Research and Innovation Irem Tumer and Vice President and Chief Diversity Officer Scott Vignos.

Serra provided a high-level overview of the federal budget landscape, reporting that the Administration is proposing \$163B in cuts to non-defense discretionary programs – a reduction of approx. 23%. She noted that the proposed cuts affect higher education and research funding, including financial aid and federal grants, adding that Congress is also considering legislation to generate \$2T in savings, which may include:

- Specific changes to the Department of Education, including federal financial aid programs and new requirements for risk-sharing requirements for institutions based on student loan repayment rates
- Changes to entitlement programs like Medicaid and SNAP, which could affect state budgets and public higher education funding.

Tumer reported that she is leading a research work group to coordinate responses to federal changes, and that the university is actively engaging with principal investigators (PIs) and advocating nationally for its research community and land grant mission.

She noted that OSU is involved in legal actions, including a lawsuit challenging the National Science Foundation’s 15% cap on Facilities and Administrative (F&A) costs, adding that she had submitted a declaration detailing the harm this cap would cause.

Tumer reported that OSU had received 47 stop-work or termination orders, with 9 rescinded. She acknowledged that this is a small fraction of OSU’s 2,200 active sponsored projects but stressed that the impact is significant for faculty and students being affected. She added that delays and changes in funding are increasing anxiety and disrupting research continuity.

Looking ahead, Tumer said that OSU is exploring new funding opportunities from industry and private foundations and considering internal investments and training to strengthen its research enterprise and prepare for future challenges. In closing, she reported that research proposal submissions remain high, reflecting faculty resilience.

Ho‘ā gave an overview of research funding risks, citing both direct funding for faculty research and indirect cost recoveries (F&A) that support infrastructure and administration.

She noted that OSU’s negotiated indirect cost rate with the federal government is 48.5% - thought actual costs are higher – which means that a proposed 15% cap on indirect cost recovery could reduce OSU’s funding by approximately \$33M based on last year’s activity.

She noted that the impact of a reduced indirect rate would be compounded if direct federal research funding also declines and said the university was evaluating best-, moderate-, and worst-case scenarios to prepare accordingly.

Ho‘ā reported that the Economic Revenue Forecast expected on May 14 would provide insight into potential reductions in state funding, noting that any federal cuts could cascade into reduced state support for higher education given Oregon’s high level of federal funding.

She added that potential federal policy changes could shift financial risk (e.g., loan repayment responsibilities) to universities, possibly costing OSU several million dollars, and that broader economic uncertainty may influence student enrollment decisions. She noted that OSU has historically maintained enrollment growth during downturns.

In closing, Ho‘ā stressed that leadership is focused on thoughtfully preparing for potential impacts.

Vignos addressed shifts in policy at the federal level that are impacting student success and the wider landscape related to OSU's inclusive excellence mission.

He reported that 13 international students whose SEVIS (Student and Exchange Visitor Information System) records were terminated had those terminations reversed. He added that OSU’s Office of International Services and other partners provided extensive support, including legal advocacy.

He noted that the National Science Foundation (NSF) had terminated funding for the Louis Stokes Alliance for Minority Participation (LSAMP), which supports underrepresented students completing STEM degrees. He said OSU is transitioning affected students into the Educational Opportunities Program (EOP) and that the Division of Student Affairs, in collaboration with colleges, is working to maintain and potentially expand support for these students.

Vignos reported that OSU anticipates further disruptions to federal grants supporting student success and that the university is closely monitoring developments and planning to uphold its student success mission despite potential funding losses.

He spoke about inclusive excellence and academic freedom, noting that federal scrutiny is increasing on programs perceived to be exclusive to certain groups. He emphasized that all OSU programs comply with federal and state law and are open to all community members regardless of background. He also noted that a webinar on academic freedom was scheduled for May 14 to help faculty navigate this environment.

Vignos stressed that diverse perspectives and inclusive dialogue are essential to academic excellence, critical thinking and solving complex societal challenges.

Presenters addressed the following topics in conversation with trustees:

Chair Hernández asked if there were particular focus areas where research cuts were more pronounced. Serra replied that university-led research is under scrutiny and that public land grant universities like OSU may have particular vulnerability due to the breadth of their federal government partnerships. Serra noted significant federal attention aimed at dismantling the forest service research mission and dismantling and restructuring the EPA, NOAA and the NSF – adding that OSU has significant portfolios across those agencies. Tumer added that a large portion of OSU’s federal funding comes from the NSF and said a 50% cut to their budget would greatly affect the university.

Trustee Manning asked if there was a change in the volume of Executive Orders (EOs) and agency-related directives. Serra noted the steady pace of EOs but added that they were getting narrower in scope. She said to expect an EO on college athletics establishing a commission to settle policy issues.

Trustee Manning then asked about OSU's natural resource / climate-related portfolio, citing the example of the Hatfield Marine Science Center in Newport and its impact on the regional economy. Tumer said OSU would approach the Hatfield the same way it approaches all other programs potentially at risk, noting the need to consider new partnerships and be entrepreneurial. Serra added that OSU's primary tactic is to keep its champions in Congress informed about how these decisions impact national goals in addition to Oregon's.

Trustee Chambers emphasized the possibility of opportunity on the other end of the current uncertainty and asked if OSU was preparing for that possibility. Tumer confirmed that the university was striving to be proactive instead of reactive, noting that the Jen-Hsun Huang and Lori Mills Huang Collaborative Innovation Complex and its supercomputer would give OSU a competitive edge. She said the university would also focus on areas like nuclear and forest resiliency and that colleges are helping faculty pivot toward new opportunities.

b. Governance Refresher

Board Chair Román Hernández and Vice President and General Counsel Becca Gose led an annual refresher on the fundamentals of governance and trustee responsibilities.

The chair gave an overview of key governance principles and responsibilities, citing two board policies – Delegation of Authority and Trustee Responsibilities. Vice President and General Counsel Becca Gose then provided a refresher on ethics and conflicts of interest, covering the following key topics: public official status, use of office, gifts, nepotism, campaigning and lobbying.

9. Executive Session: Federal Landscape

The board met in executive session pursuant to (1) ORS 192.660(2)(h) to consult with legal counsel concerning the legal rights and duties of Oregon State University with regard to current litigation and litigation likely to be filed, and (2) ORS 192.660(2)(f) to consider information that is exempt from public disclosure on the basis that it is protected attorney by attorney-client privilege (ORS 192.355(9)(a) and ORS 40.225).

Chair Hernández stressed that no decisions were made in executive session.

10. Action Items**

a. Resolutions of Appreciation

The board recognized the exceptional leadership and service of four outgoing trustees and the university's chief executive of audit, risk and compliance.

Trustee Macpherson delivered the board's resolution of appreciation for Kasaundra (Kassy) Kassy Bonanno, who will complete her term as undergraduate student trustee and graduate in June.

The chair sought a motion to approve the board's resolution of appreciation for Trustee Bonanno. A motion was made by Trustee Luther, seconded by Trustee Chambers and approved by all board members in attendance: Trustee Bonanno, Trustee Brim-Edwards, Trustee Bulger, Trustee Carter-Cram, Trustee Chambers, Vice Chair Chávez-Haroldson, Trustee Clark, Trustee Hale, Chair Hernández, Trustee Kitamura, Trustee Luther, Trustee Macpherson, Trustee Manning, Trustee McClure and Trustee Palmer. The motion carried.

Trustee McClure delivered the board's resolution of appreciation for Marlena (MJ) Mirho, who was graduating early and completing their service as the board's first nonvoting undergraduate student trustee.

The chair sought a motion to approve the board's resolution of appreciation for Trustee Mirho. A motion was made by Trustee Kitamura, seconded by Vice Chair Chávez-Haroldson and approved by all board members in attendance: Trustee Bonanno, Trustee Brim-Edwards, Trustee Bulger, Trustee Carter-Cram, Trustee Chambers, Vice Chair Chávez-Haroldson, Trustee Clark, Trustee Hale, Chair Hernández, Trustee Kitamura, Trustee Luther, Trustee Macpherson, Trustee Manning, Trustee McClure and Trustee Palmer. The motion carried.

Board Vice Chair Maria Chávez-Haroldson delivered the board's resolution of appreciation for Susan Clark, staff trustee and long-time member of the FAC.

The chair sought a motion to approve the board's resolution of appreciation for Trustee Clark. A motion was made by Trustee Hale, seconded by Trustee Macpherson and approved by all board members in attendance: Trustee Bonanno, Trustee Brim-Edwards, Trustee Bulger, Trustee Carter-Cram, Trustee Chambers, Vice Chair Chávez-Haroldson, Trustee Clark, Trustee Hale, Chair Hernández, Trustee Kitamura, Trustee Luther, Trustee Macpherson, Trustee Manning, Trustee McClure and Trustee Palmer. The motion carried.

Trustee Manning delivered the board's resolution of appreciation for Trustee Julia Brim-Edwards, who is completing nine years of service on the board.

The chair sought a motion to approve the board's resolution of appreciation for Trustee Brim-Edwards. A motion was made by Trustee Manning, seconded by Trustee Luther and approved by all board members in attendance: Trustee Bonanno, Trustee Brim-Edwards, Trustee Bulger, Trustee Carter-Cram, Trustee Chambers, Vice Chair Chávez-Haroldson, Trustee Clark, Trustee Hale, Chair Hernández, Trustee Kitamura, Trustee Luther, Trustee Macpherson, Trustee Manning, Trustee McClure and Trustee Palmer. The motion carried.

Chair Hernández delivered the board's resolution of appreciation for Patti Snopkowski, who joined OSU in 2014 as the university's inaugural chief executive of audit, risk and compliance.


The chair sought a motion to approve the board's resolution of appreciation for Patti Snopkowski. A motion was made by Trustee Chambers, seconded by Trustee McClure and approved by all board members in attendance: Trustee Bonanno, Trustee Brim-Edwards, Trustee Bulger, Trustee Carter-Cram, Trustee Chambers, Vice Chair Chávez-Haroldson, Trustee

Clark, Trustee Hale, Chair Hernández, Trustee Kitamura, Trustee Luther, Trustee Macpherson, Trustee Manning, Trustee McClure and Trustee Palmer. The motion carried.

11. Adjournment

With no further discussion or business before the board, Chair Hernández adjourned the meeting at 3:51 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Stacy Jeffries
Executive Assistant, Office of the Board of Trustees