



**Oregon State
University**

The Board of Trustees of Oregon State University

Meeting of the Academic Strategies Committee

October 22, 2025

2:55 – 4:30 p.m.

Memorial Union Horizon Rm.

MINUTES

Committee members present: Kate Carter-Cram, Roy Haggerty (*ex-officio*), Román Hernández (*ex-officio*), Greg Macpherson, Julie Manning (*chair*), Julia Phillips, Irem Tumer (*ex-officio*)

Committee members absent: Stephanie Bulger (*vice chair*), Camille Palmer

Other trustees present: Lauren Camou, Karla Chambers, Eric J. Gleske, Lisa Hale, Grant Kitamura, Toby Luther, Elise McClure, Jayathi Murthy

University staff present: Maxine Agather, Jackie Bangs, Gigi Bruce (Zoom), Marina Denny, Kevin Dougherty, Kris Elliott, Alix Gitelman, Becca Gose, Carla Ho'ā, Jen Humphreys, Stacy Jeffries, Deb Mott, Rob Odom, Julee Otter, Xavier Siemens, Irem Tumer, Scott Vignos

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

Committee Chair Julie Manning called the meeting to order at 3:05 p.m. She welcomed new trustee and ASC committee member Julia Phillips.

Board Secretary Jackie Bangs called the roll and verified a quorum.

Committee Chair Manning noted that Provost and Executive Vice President Roy Haggerty's report to the board was his first as OSU's new provost.

2. Provost's Report

- a. **Status Report: Academic Programs in Development or Review; Institutional Accreditation; Program Accreditations**
- b. **Provost's Research Spotlight: Building a galaxy-sized detector for the largest collisions in the universe**

Provost and Executive Vice President Roy Haggerty delivered his inaugural report as provost to the committee.

Haggerty expressed enthusiasm about returning to OSU after three years away, noting his 27-year history with the university. He introduced a new feature for future provost reports: presentations showcasing groundbreaking OSU research. Professor Xavier Siemens from the Department of Physics gave the first presentation on supermassive black holes.

Siemens leads NANOGrav, an international collaboration focused on detecting ultra-low-frequency gravitational waves produced by supermassive black holes billions of times the sun's mass. He reported that 15 years of data collection confirms that supermassive black holes

merge, a critical but previously unproven aspect of cosmic evolution that opens a new observational window in astrophysics and provides insights into galaxy formation.

Provost Haggerty delivered his report, including an update on the university's seven-year accreditation cycle. He reported that a site visit by the NWCCU (Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities) evaluation team is scheduled for April 7 – 10, 2026, and added that board leadership may be asked to participate. The ASC will continue to receive updates.

Haggerty reported that OSU hosted its second *Prosperity Widely Shared Summit* earlier this week, with over 400 people registered for an event focused on research, innovation and impact. He announced that the second annual summit on student success was planned for spring 2026.

The provost noted the launch of five new online undergraduate degrees identified as potential high enrollment programs through Ecampus. The degree programs are intended to help OSU reach the 30X30 goal articulated in *Prosperity Widely Shared*: Electrical and Computer Engineering, Chemical Engineering, Civil Engineering, Animal Sciences and Healthcare Management.

Haggerty reported that approximately 3,250 students were actively enrolled in microcredentials in academic years 2025 and 2026, with about 440 enrolled as nondegree students. He added that nondegree students accounted for \$1.2M in revenue since the inception of microcredentials three years ago.

The provost announced that University Information Technology (UIT) is leading a coordinated, university-wide response in partnership with the Disability Action Steering Group and campus stakeholders to meet new federal requirements for digital accessibility under ADA Title II, effective April 2026.

He reported that international student enrollment was down 22% from pre-pandemic levels (better than national declines of 30 – 40%). He added that OSU hosts one-third of Oregon's international students, a headcount of about 2,200.

In a research update, the provost noted that 57 grants at OSU have been terminated or have received a stop work order, resulting in a total impact of approximately \$12 – 14M. He commended OSU faculty for their resilience in the face of these challenges, noting they had submitted a record number of awards last fiscal year, with research expenditures exceeding \$400M.

Haggerty announced that OSU has been designated an Innovation and Economic Prosperity (IEP) University by the Association of Public and Land-grant Universities (APLU). The designation follows a nine-month self-study process involving more than 500 stakeholders and recognizes OSU's statewide leadership in innovation and economic development and a 10-year plan for continued growth aligned with *Prosperity Widely Shared*.

3. Consent agenda

a. Minutes of the July 8, 2025, Special Meeting of the Academic Strategies Committee

Committee Chair Manning sought a motion to approve the consent agenda. A motion was made by Trustee Macpherson, seconded by Trustee Carter-Cram, and approved by all committee members in attendance: Trustee Carter-Cram, Trustee Macpherson, Committee Chair Manning and Trustee Phillips. The motion carried.

4. Action items

a. 2026 ASC Work Plan

Committee Chair Manning presented the 2026 ASC work plan and announced that the 2025 assessment results were moved to January 2026 to allow newly appointed trustees time to attend meetings before the assessment review.

She added that the 2026 work plan could be adjusted throughout the year to accommodate emerging needs.

There being no discussion on this agenda item, Committee Chair Manning sought a motion to accept the committee's 2026 work plan. A motion was made by Trustee Macpherson, seconded by Trustee Phillips and approved by all committee members in attendance: Trustee Carter-Cram, Trustee Macpherson, Committee Chair Manning and Trustee Phillips. The motion carried.

5. Discussion Items

a. Faculty Affairs Briefing

Senior Vice Provost for Academic Affairs Alix Gitelman delivered the faculty affairs briefing, which included an overview of current challenges that are top-of-mind for OSU faculty.

Gitelman announced the successful launch of OSU's new general education curriculum in summer 2025, acknowledging the significant faculty effort that went into redesigning and integrating courses across all undergraduate programs. She noted there is a built-in assessment plan tied to accreditation requirements to ensure continuous improvement.

She provided an overview of the federal funding landscape, citing uncertainty in research funding and grant terminations as a source of stress for faculty engaged in sponsored projects. She added that the national tone surrounding higher education presents additional challenges to faculty morale and long-term planning.

She reported that recent reallocation exercises and anticipated reductions due to budget constraints will affect faculty workloads and program resources.

Gitelman acknowledged opportunities for innovation in the teaching and learning space related to AI integration in teaching and research but also cautioned that rapid technological change presents a challenge to policy development. She added that faculty vary widely in readiness, with some actively incorporating AI tools and others unsure how to proceed.

She noted that the federal mandate requiring all digital content to meet ADA standards by April 2026 presents technical hurdles for faculty using specialized tools for course materials.

Committee Chair Manning asked about early feedback on the new Core Education program and how assessment will be managed. Gitelman emphasized that it was only week four of the rollout but reported that initial feedback was positive. She noted that an assessment plan was built into the redevelopment of the education program, with assessment starting this year and continuing on a rolling cycle moving forward.

Trustee Chambers commended OSU's resilient and innovative faculty and suggested OSU could offer AI immersion programs like those at elite institutions. Gitelman agreed and noted plans for microcredentials and non-credit offerings in AI.

Trustee Macpherson asked about leveraging the Jen-Hsun Huang and Lori Mills Huang Collaborative Innovation Complex and OSU's connection to NVIDIA for national prominence in AI. Gitelman confirmed opportunities and ongoing discussions with NVIDIA, including ambassador programs and faculty training.

Provost Haggerty commented on OSU's partnership with NVIDIA, citing NVIDIA's participation in the recent research summit and active engagement with faculty across colleges. He also noted corporate interest in OSU due to this collaboration.

President Murthy added that the opening of the Huang Collaborative Innovation Complex in Dec. 2026 presented a singular moment for OSU to position itself as Oregon's AI hub, emphasizing that she is keenly aware of the need to capitalize on that moment.

In response to a question from Committee Chair Manning, Gitelman said there are clear federal guidelines for the new ADA compliance requirement and that OSU teams are collaborating with peer institutions to share best practices.

b. Extension and Engagement Briefing

Vice Provost for Extension and Engagement and Director of OSU Extension Service Kris Elliott and Associate Vice Provost for Engagement Marina Denny delivered the Extension and Engagement briefing.

Elliott detailed how the university has advanced public engagement and engaged scholarship across research, teaching, and outreach, with initiatives including the Engagement at OSU certificate program; the annual OSU Engagement Conference and awards; and the Research Advancement Academy. He added that promotion and tenure guidelines were being drafted to recognize engaged scholarship in faculty evaluations.

He reported that OSU has revamped its Engagement Awards to align with national awards programs and noted recent successes, including two OSU projects that have won the regional W. K. Kellogg Foundation Community Engagement Scholarship Award. The 2025 winner – the Oregon Whale Entanglement Project led by Leigh Torres at the Marine Mammal Institute, is now a finalist for the national C. Peter McGrath Award.

Elliott reported that OSU Extension has funding partnerships with all 36 Oregon counties and the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs for the first time in 23 years, a milestone that reflects strong trust and relevance of OSU's programs, even amid tight local budgets.

He emphasized the community impact of Extension and Engagement, with a statewide presence spanning rural and urban Oregon that adapts programs to meet local needs. He noted that over 8,000 volunteers and 400 advisory committee members support Extension's statewide efforts.

In closing, Elliott mentioned Extension and Engagement's strategic plan, which guides the division's commitment to serve all Oregonians.

Trustee Chambers praised Extension's critical role and shared personal experience as a dedicated 4-H supporter. She highlighted importance of livestock programs and strong relationships with local 4-H agents and invited trustees to attend county 4-H auctions, noting their significant economic and community impact.

Trustee Kitamura emphasized Extension's unique value in rural counties like Malheur, where it supports agriculture and youth development and asked about anticipated funding cuts. Elliott said they planned for 2% reduction last biennium and are currently preparing for up to 5.5% cuts through strategic hiring pauses and stakeholder engagement.


Committee Chair Manning asked about strategies for urban engagement and sustaining investments. Elliott said the strategy focused on listening to community needs, adapting programs and building trust rather than imposing one-size-fits-all solutions.

Trustee Phillips asked about public awareness of OSU's affiliation with Extension programs. Elliott said that awareness varies and that the division's strategic plan includes initiatives to strengthen OSU branding and visibility in communities.

6. Adjournment

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

Respectfully submitted,



Stacy Jeffries
Executive Assistant, Office of the Board of Trustees