



Oregon State
University

The Board of Trustees of Oregon State University

Regular Meeting of the Academic Strategies Committee

May 20, 2021
12:30 – 2:30 pm
Remote Meeting

MINUTES

Committee Members Present: Mike Bailey, Rani Borkar (*ex officio*), Michele Longo Eder, Ed Feser (*ex officio*), Lamar Hurd, Paul Kelly, Julie Manning, Preston Pulliams, and Irem Tumer (*ex officio*)

Other Trustees Present: Patty Bedient, Darry Callahan, Becky Johnson (*ex officio*), and Khawater Hussein

University Staff Present: Jennifer Almquist, Scott Barnes, Debbie Colbert, Alix Gitelman, Becca Gose, Michael Harte, Dan Larson, Karen Shell, Lauren Skousen, and Frank Tepley

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

Committee Chair Preston Pulliams called the meeting to order at 12:30 p.m., asked the board secretary to call the roll, and noted a quorum.

2. Provost's Report

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

Provost and Executive Vice President Edward Feser provided an update on executive searches in progress, including the vice provost for extension and engagement and the dean of libraries. The search for the dean of business should conclude soon. He also provided an update on the Elliott State Research Forest project, noting that OSU continues to engage with the State Land Board and the advisory committee convened by the State. Feser also provided an update on the TRACE OSU project, which will cease operations on June 30. Waste monitoring will continue, and a new effort—the High-Frequency Asymptomatic Screen Testing (HFAST) program—has been organized to respond in the event of an outbreak. Feser talked about the international admissions outlook and uncertainties based on current applications and COVID implications for visa processing and travel. He said applications are up 17%; however, confirmations are down 44%, based on comparison over two years. The drop in confirmations is mostly driven by students from China; the increase is related to students from Southeast Asia, especially India. Feser shared that the university reviewed 208 faculty cases for promotion this year. Promotions included thirty tenured faculty to professor; 45 tenure track faculty to associate professor; and 14 faculty to untenured professorial ranks at associate or full levels (professor of practice, senior research professor, clinical professor). One hundred and nineteen instructors, faculty research assistants, and research associates were also promoted. Feser also mentioned the launch of the Provost's Endowed Faculty Match Program, which he announced at the May 5 Faculty Excellence Celebration. The program will incentivize the establishment of

endowments to support faculty. The university's previous match programs under Provost Sabah Randhawa were very successful and led to \$33.6M in gifts supporting 39 new endowments. Feser thanked Ecampus for supporting the creation of 13 new programs (both bachelors and graduate degrees) in the 2021 academic year. He also shared that OSU's launch of the Marine Studies undergraduate degree is going well. To date, 115 students have applied selecting the degree, with 38 of those paying their advance tuition deposit for fall. There will also be some experiential program opportunities at Hatfield this summer. Feser provided a research update, mentioning recent large grants from the Keck Foundation and the National Science Foundation, OSU's recent success pursuing large projects in general, and work to support innovation and entrepreneurship. He also shared that the OSU Foundation appointed Heather Brust as Executive Director for Industry Partnerships to work with Irem Tumer and the Research Office to on a strategy for expanding corporate partnerships. He also shared some good news, including a grant from the Roundhouse Foundation and possible on-site commencement activities that will be announced shortly. Feser concluded by introducing Tiffany Cochran, Marketing and Social Media Manager for Ecampus, to share a presentation regarding an "influencer marketing campaign." Discussion following the presentation included conversation regarding the B.S. in Nursing and the Elliott State Forest.

3. Consent Agenda

a. Minutes of the April 1, 2021 Academic Strategies Committee Meeting

A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes of the May 20, 2021, meeting. The motion carried.

4. Action Items

a. New Academic Program: Climate Science, BS

Trustee Pulliams asked Vice Provost for Undergraduate Education Alix Gitelman, Associate Dean for Undergraduate Programs in the College of Earth, Ocean, and Atmospheric Sciences (CEOAS) Michael Harte, and Associate Professor Karen Shell to present this item.

Gitelman began by introducing Harte and Shell and sharing that the two programs for consideration are options being pulled from the Earth Sciences degree and will become new majors. Harte provided background regarding how CEOAS and the Earth Sciences program were formed. He said that current enrollment and degree demand support the creation of these two new degree programs and would increase the diversity of students. Shell provided a rationale for the climate science degree, including the growing demand for a climate literate workforce, inequities exacerbated by climate science, and a lack of undergraduate climate science programs around the country. She also shared that the climate science degree is inherently interdisciplinary with a focus on active learning and graduates who will be prepared to work in government, private industry, non-profits, and graduate school. Shell said the program focuses on transferable skills to prepare students for careers beyond climate science. She also shared that converting the program into its own major will raise the visibility of this unique and urgently needed program.

With no discussion, a motion was made and seconded to approve the establishment of a Bachelor of Science degree in Climate Science, effective fall

2021, pending support of the Statewide Provosts Council and the approval of the Higher Education Coordinating Commission. The motion carried.

b. New Academic Program: Geology, BS

Trustee Pulliams asked Gitelman, Harte, and Professor and Geology Program Director Frank Tepley to present this item.

Gitelman welcomed Tepley. Harte asked Tepley to introduce the new program and explained that the background for this degree is much the same as the Climate Science degree. Tepley stated that the Geology program has been at OSU for some time, but the name has evolved to be more inclusive. He also explained that it is an existing program with no real changes in faculty, curriculum, or budgetary issues. Harte highlighted that the Geology degree is an experiential learning endeavor by nature, indicating many of the courses have some experiential learning opportunities, including handling minerals, rocks, and sediments; one to three-day field trips; and extended field platforms incorporating theories learned in class. He shared that undergraduate students are also getting unparalleled opportunities by being able to use world-class analytical facilities at OSU. Harte said alumni are also highly engaged with the Geology program; the program recently received a \$2M donation to fund an endowment. The need for the program is demonstrated by the growing market demand for geoscientists.

During the discussion, Trustee Kelly asked whether the change was a marketing decision since Geology could be added as an option to the Earth Sciences degree. Harte shared that the curriculum more closely aligns with geology, as opposed to earth science, which is very broad, while geology is more specific to the earth, its surface, materials, and interior. He also shared that faculty are more accurately reflected by geology and that the program is geared towards academic and career pathways. Harte concluded by saying that students, employees, and alumni have long known the program as a geology program.

With no further discussion, a motion was made and seconded to approve the establishment of a Bachelor of Science degree in Geology, effective fall 2021, pending support of the Statewide Provosts Council and the approval of the Higher Education Coordinating Commission. The motion carried.

5. Discussion Items

a. Student Life & Conduct Briefing & Discussion

Trustee Pulliams asked Vice Provost for Student Affairs Dan Larson to present this item. Larson began by acknowledging that everyone has faced a tough year and students are no exception. He emphasized that COVID has accelerated and amplified the need to move health and well-being, access and inclusion, and academic success from a priority to being imperative. Larson noted his pride in the work of the Counseling and Physiological Services (CAPS) team to bolster student mental health services for black and indigenous students. He shared that CAPS, led by Dr. Kellems, reassessed its approach and created a new position, the Black and African American Student Mental Health and Wellness Coordinator, and has hired two exceptional candidates. Larson said a search for an Indigenous Student Mental Health and Wellness Coordinator is currently underway. He also shared that in addition to mental health, efforts to improve access and success for Black and Indigenous students also led to the creation of

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the Black and Indigenous Student Access and Success Center. Larson shared that the model, which was developed by Dorian Smith, has seen impressive results for Black and African American students due to its focus on early engagement, academic success, relationship and community building. He also shared that Smith is now serving as the director of the Black and Indigenous Student Access and Success Center. The unit has hired two full-time staff to support Black/African American and Native and Indigenous students. Larson also summarized the findings of the stakeholder group that he and Kim Kirkland convened on April 23 to review interpersonal violence, prevention, response and support at OSU. He said the group reviewed OSU's comprehensive and interdisciplinary approach and was tasked to look at the broad network, determine need and opportunities for collaboration, and identify gaps. Larson shared that the committee affirmed there is shared ownership of interpersonal violence prevention, response and support, and that several units are accountable for supporting survivors. Outside partners are also well connected. He said some needs were identified, including determining how OSU leverages resources, manages competing goals among units, formalizes a coalition of contributors, provides for long term program enhancement, and provides additional funding for areas such as programs and services for online students. Larson shared that utilization data does not indicate the university has too few services. He will continue working with unit leaders through the normal annual budgeting process to assess various units' ongoing staffing needs. Larson concluded his update by sharing that Student Affairs is focusing on developing a more comprehensive welcome week for students. Welcome week will include information on technology, health and wellbeing, and belonging, and will scale up supplemental instruction provided by peers.

In response to a question from Pulliams, Larson described some of the reasons students have experienced technology issues and how the university has tried to manage those issues by working with Academic Technology, the Division of Extension and Engagement, and the Division of University Information and Technology. Trustee Bailey asked whether Survivor Advocacy and Resource Center (SARC) would be located at the wellness clinic in Reser stadium and expressed some concerns about understaffing. Larson responded that SARC would likely not be located in the wellness clinic, but the location will be accessible. With regard to the SARC being understaffed, Larson stated that the recent review sought to identify whether there is a significant staffing gap and thus far it has not found that there is a gap. Trustee Hurd asked about the hiring of the two CAPS coordinators and Larson shared that there were four vacancies and the search committee had recommended hiring two coordinators because they were highly qualified. Trustee Hussein shared her excitement for the bridge programs planned and the expansion of these programs because they have shown positive results. Larson agreed; he expressed his hope that more students can be supported in the future. Larson added that these programs are expensive to run because they are highly staff-intensive, but they work. Trustees also wondered how students responded to the vaccination requirement. Larson shared that student leaders and many others were generally supportive and excited about the vaccine requirement. He said that they are working on doing more education around the vaccine to help those who have shared concerns.

In response to a question from Trustee Michele Longo Eder regarding mandatory health insurance for students and student health fees, Larson shared that OSU

was outside of the norm by not requiring mandatory health insurance. The objective is to help students get access to a program, not necessarily through OSU; it could be the Oregon Health Plan (OHP) or other health insurance. Larson also stated that having more students enrolled in the health insurance program offered through OSU would help stabilize the rate offered to students. Larson explained that student health fees paid by students cover the basic services provided; however, most services are billed to the student's primary insurance. He concluded by offering to connect Eder and Executive Director for Student Health Services Jenny Haubenreiser to answer specific questions.

b. Student Athletes Briefing & Discussion

Trustee Pulliams asked Vice President and Director of Athletics Scott Barnes to present this item. Barnes began with an overall summary of student-athletes across colleges, noting that 25% are in the College of Business, 24% in Liberal Arts, 18.5% Public Health and Human Sciences, and the remaining split over the other colleges. He also highlighted the academic success of student-athletes by comparing the cumulative GPA of 3.36 during 2020-21 year, which is slightly higher than the 2019-20 cumulative GPA of 3.35. Barnes emphasized that all 16 athletic programs so far had a GPA of at least 3.0 and one student in cross-country had a GPA of 3.81. He also said that under Coach Jonathan Smith's leadership, football has had a GPA of 3.0 or better every term. Wrestling had a cumulative GPA of 3.24 and that program had not seen a GPA of over 3.0 prior to Coach Pendleton's arrival. During the pandemic, Barnes shared that 13,494 antigen tests and more than 10,000 PCR tests were administered to student-athletes. He shared that OSU athletes had the third lowest COVID test positive rates in the Pac-12 and 76% of coaches/student-athletes had at least one dose of a vaccine. Barnes emphasized that mental health continues to be a focus. Efforts include educational programming and activities around mental health, online support platforms, screenings for depression, anxiety, concussion, and 1:1 mental health wellness checks with coaches. He also shared that student-athletes continue to be engaged in bringing awareness and taking action in several areas, including Dam Change, which aims to bring awareness related to systemic racism. Barnes provided updates regarding Title IX. He said 100% of the staff have been through Title IX training with the Office of Equal Opportunity and Access (EOA) and all students have participated in trainings from SARC and external entities. Barnes provided an overview of facility projects, including \$14M in women's sports facilities, and noted that OSU's new gymnastics practice facility is the third best in the US. He concluded his briefing by providing an update on name, image, and likeness (NIL) issues, including some of the opportunities and challenges.

In response to a question from Pulliams, Barnes shared that during the pandemic student-athletes took online courses, including through Ecampus. Trustees commended Barnes and Athletics for being proactive regarding NIL and suggested discussing this topic further at the October meeting. Trustees also recognized the academic success of student-athletes. Pulliams asked Barnes to speak to the athletics budget challenges. Barnes said Athletics projects a \$35M shortfall, which is better than previously anticipated. He shared that Athletics would carry a deficit for another year and this is expected to be mitigated in its entirety by year seven, based on the 10-year plan which has conservative projections. Barnes concluded by sharing that information about a new television

broadcasting contract and efforts to complete Reser Stadium, both of which will help address budget challenges.

6. Adjournment

With no further business proposed, Chair Pulliams adjourned the meeting at 2:27 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Debbie Colbert
Board Secretary