

President Emeritus

BACKGROUND

The OSU Board of Trustees is the sole entity that may confer emeritus status upon a university president. Nominations for awarding this title must come from members of the Board as described in the Board's President Emeritus Policy. The title of President Emeritus may be awarded to a president who has provided distinguished services through accomplishments, length of service, and evidence of advancing the mission of the university.

NOMINATIONS RECEIVED

Seven trustees individually nominated President Ed Ray for the title of President Emeritus in anticipation of the end of his tenure as president on June 30, 2020. Nominations spoke to his 17 years of distinguished service as university president and his extraordinary impact on the university and broader community.

Trustees recognized his many accomplishments, including his visionary leadership in advancing diversity and inclusion and his deep commitment to OSU's land grant mission of ensuring access and success for all students. Under his leadership, the university has expanded its nationally ranked online degree programs, OSU-Cascades campus in Bend, programs in Newport and Portland, and dual-enrollment partnerships with community colleges.

Letters of nomination noted that President Ray served as the inspiration and champion of the university's first comprehensive fundraising campaign, The Campaign for OSU, raising more than \$1.14 billion. This transformational effort helped to create new scholarship and fellowship funds for students, endow numerous faculty positions, and renovate and build new buildings and infrastructure critical to the university mission.

Beyond these and other accomplishments noted, trustees spoke to his candid, no-nonsense leadership style, his personal and professional integrity, and his track record of doing "the right thing, no matter how difficult."

Trustees noted that President Ray's legacy reaches beyond OSU's boundaries as a recognized higher education leader within the state, region and nationally through his work with Oregon's higher education leaders, PAC-12 presidents, and national organizations such as the American Council on Education, the Association of American Colleges and Universities and the Association of Public and Land-grant Universities.

A nominee shared that "His legacy is so rich and diverse that OSU will benefit for years to come by maintaining the association with a leader who is everything that is outstanding about OSU." Another trustee noted, "It has been a rare opportunity to serve with such an honest and compassionate leader and one I will treasure my whole life."

NEXT STEPS

The Board will consider granting the title of President Emeritus to President Ray at the May 29, 2020 Board meeting. If approved by the majority of trustees present, the rights, privileges, and title would be effective July 1, 2020. The Board may also consider delegating to the Board Chair the authority to award to President Ray certain items received by the Office of the President during his term in recognition of his professional achievements.