



Oregon State
University

The Board of Trustees of Oregon State University

Special Meeting of the Board of Trustees
December 13, 2019
Horizon Room, Memorial Union
Corvallis, Oregon

MINUTES

Trustees Present: Mike Bailey, Patty Bedient (by phone), Rani Borkar (*chair*), Julia Brim-Edwards, Darry Callahan, Michele Longo Eder, Khawater Hussein, Paul Kelly, Julie Manning, Preston Pulliams (by phone), Ed Ray (*ex officio*), Kirk Schueler (*vice chair*), Stephanie Smith, and Mike Thorne

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

Board Chair Rani Borkar welcomed members of the OSU community to the meeting and thanked them for attending, including those listening online. Following this welcome, Borkar called the special meeting of the Board to order at 10:05 a.m. and noted the importance of the day as the Board meets to consider the appointment of Oregon State's 15th president. With this welcome, Borkar asked the board secretary to call the roll and noted a quorum.

2. Action Item

a. Presidential Appointment and Employment Agreement

Borkar reflected on OSU's strength and collaborative community, which have thrived under the leadership of President Ray. She noted the impact of Oregon State University, thanking OSU's faculty, staff, students and administrators for devoting their talents and creativity to achieving the mission of the university. She noted that these many efforts put OSU in a position to attract a strong leader as its next president. Borkar asked Trustee and Presidential Search Committee Chair Darry Callahan to make a few remarks. Callahan recounted the extensive input from the OSU community and partners throughout the recruitment process. He noted the community-based process undertaken for developing the list of presidential attributes that guided the recruitment and selection, as well as the efforts of the 15-member search committee, 25-person stakeholder group, and the Board. He also recognized the individual members of the search committee and stakeholder group for their work. Borkar followed these remarks by recognizing Callahan's leadership and thanking the search committee for advancing a talented and diverse pool of candidates for the Board's consideration.

Borkar then introduced Dr. King Alexander as the presidential candidate proposed for appointment by the Board. She noted Alexander's extensive experience and his commitment to inclusive excellence, student success, and OSU's land grant mission, each of which Borkar cited are attributes sought in the presidential search profile. Borkar praised Alexander as an accomplished academic leader and nationally recognized advocate for public higher education, learner access, college affordability, and the distinctive value of public research. She highlighted his record of accomplishments and awards during his presidencies at Louisiana State University and California State University at Long Beach regarding research funding, graduation rates and faculty advancement.

Following this summary, a motion was made and seconded to appoint Dr. King Alexander as the president of Oregon State University effective July 1, 2020, and to approve his contract with the university in the form presented to the Board. Borkar asked the board secretary to take a roll call vote, and noted that the motion was approved unanimously by the Board.

Borkar invited President-elect Alexander to make a remarks. Alexander noted how thrilled he and his wife, Shenette, are to become members of Beaver Nation and to become a part of one of only two universities designated as sun, sea, space and land grant institutions. He thanked the Board, search committee and many members of the OSU community who participated in the presidential search. Alexander also thanked President Ray for his leadership and his work nationally to advocate for affordable higher education, address student debt, and secure funding for public higher education. He reflected on his life-long connection to mission of land grant universities, while a student, faculty member and university president. Alexander remarked on the historic significance of the creation of land grant universities in 1862 by adoption of the Morrill Land Grant Act. He shared his commitment to working with the Oregon State community to pursue inclusive excellence for all by fulfilling the university's mission and underscoring the critical tools — teaching, research, and service — of a land grant institution for tackling the problems of the state, nation and world. He remarked on the impact of Oregon State University under President Ray's leadership, closing with his thanks to the Board, President Ray and others and noted he looked forward to working with Governor Brown and Oregon legislators to advance OSU's 21st century land grant mission.

3. Adjournment

Borkar congratulated Alexander on this appointment. With no further business, she adjourned the meeting at 10:30 a.m., inviting members of the community to join the trustees, President-elect Alexander, and Shenette Alexander for a reception in the Memorial Union lounge.

Respectfully submitted,

Debbie Colbert
Board Secretary