



The Board of Trustees of Oregon State University

Meeting of the Academic Strategies Committee

May 2, 2017

Telephonic and Journey (Room 104), Memorial Union
Corvallis, Oregon

MINUTES

Committee Members Present: Mike Bailey, Michele Longo Eder (*vice chair*), Ed Feser (*ex officio*), Paul Kelly (*chair*), Preston Pulliams, Pat Reser, and Cindy Sagers (*ex officio*)

Other Trustees Present: Mike Baldwin and Ed Ray

University Staff Present: Ron Adams, Jennifer Almquist, Susan Capalbo, Susie Brubaker-Cole, Debbie Colbert, Becca Gose, Mike Green, Marcia Stuart, and Patti Snopkowski

Guests: Scott Barnes (*vice president and director of intercollegiate athletics*) and Robert Reff (*director of prevention, advocacy and wellness, Student Health Services*)

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

Committee Chair Paul Kelly called the meeting to order at 12:02 p.m., asked the assistant board secretary to call the roll, and noted a quorum.

2. Provost's Report

Provost and Executive Vice President Ed Feser reported that revenue forecasts for Fiscal Year (FY) 2018 are on track with the last projection. He also provided an update on applications for Fall 2017. Numbers at OSU-Cascades are up slightly from the previous year. The Corvallis campus saw a decrease in applications for first-year Oregon residents; however, applications from out-of-state students increased modestly, and the number for transfer students remained flat. The net effect is that enrollment in Fall 2017 will likely be very close to Fall 2016 enrollment. Trustee Mike Bailey asked about Oregon Promise, the state grant that covers most tuition at any Oregon community college; Feser said the Office of Admissions was tracking the impact but did not yet have conclusive data. Feser also noted that there was some uncertainty around international enrollment due to a number of factors, including shifts in federal policies, efforts by other countries to attract international students, and increases in competition by other colleges and universities within the United States. He added that China, which has been OSU's largest sources of international students, is focusing on building their strategy to keep more students in the country. In light of these changes, Oregon State will need to continue to refine its internationalization strategy, including focusing on ways to differentiate the university in an increasingly competitive market.

Feser also reported that the university is in the midst of planning for a FY2018 budget gap of approximately \$20M. He said that the university's current plan calls for addressing the gap by reducing projected spending for services, supplies, and capital outlays across all units, with about two-thirds of the reduction absorbed by central administration and one-third by

the colleges. Trustees asked about the potential impact on personnel, and Feser reported that approximately \$10M will be saved by not filling some position vacancies and by focusing on restructuring where appropriate. These reductions would result in 3.2% lower spending on personnel in central administration and support units and 2.0% lower personnel spending in the colleges, with many of the college reductions occurring in administrative roles. Trustee Pat Reser asked about the impact in reductions on course offerings, noting a concern about the impact on time-to-degree. Feser said that deans are paying particular attention to this concern, and he added that some of the impact of reductions on students is mitigated by the \$55.7M that has been raised toward the \$150M Student Success Initiative.

Feser concluded his report with an update on efforts to develop a 2030 vision document that can inform the development of the next strategic plan (SP 4.0). He reported that six focus groups have been completed to date, with additional groups scheduled, including an anticipated discussion with trustees of the Oregon State University and Oregon State University Foundation Boards in June. He expects to have a brief white paper to President Ray by the end of spring term.

3. Consent Agenda

a. Minutes of the March 16, 2017 Academic Strategies Committee Meeting

A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes of the March 16, 2017, Academic Strategies Committee meeting. The motion carried.

4. Education/Discussion Item

a. Strategies to Address High-Risk Behaviors

Kelly reminded trustees that this education item followed a presentation made to the committee in January. The telephonic meeting was set to allow more time for discussion on addressing high-risk behaviors. Kelly then welcomed Vice President and Director of Intercollegiate Athletics Scott Barnes to his first Board meeting and invited Barnes and Brubaker-Cole to present this topic. Brubaker-Cole also introduced Director of Prevention, Advocacy & Wellness Robert Reff.

Brubaker-Cole began the discussion by noting that a vast body of research shows that health and wellbeing are integral to student success and that drug and alcohol use, in particular, has far-reaching negative impacts on student success. Thus, Oregon State's efforts to address alcohol and drug use amongst students are about health and safety. The efforts also align with the university's goals to raise and equalize student success rates. She then directed the committee to TAB B for additional data on high-risk behaviors. Brubaker-Cole said these data were collected during OSU's biennial participation in the National College Health Assessment (NCHA), noting that the sample size was representative of the OSU population. She added that the regular collection of data provides an opportunity to understand trends across time and to compare the OSU population with the national sample. In summarizing trends, Brubaker-Cole pointed to the importance of disaggregating data by different student populations in order to help target the university's prevention efforts. For example, while 2016 data show a decline in the percent of undergraduate students who reported engaging in high-risk alcohol use, they also indicate a need to pay particular attention to male populations and Greek-affiliated populations. Brubaker-Cole also reported that OSU students are 10% above the national average in self-reported marijuana use in the past 30 days, again with higher usage reported among Greek-affiliated students. Trustee Michele Longo Eder asked about data on the combined use of alcohol and marijuana. Brubaker-Cole noted

that this was a rapidly emerging field of research and, while there was not yet OSU-specific data, national studies pointed to serious effects. Brubaker-Cole then reviewed data on the use of unprescribed prescription drug use, noting that the use of stimulants was of concern, particularly among Greek-affiliated students. Reff noted that an effective preventative measure is implementation of consequences and that the university would need to continue to partner with local law enforcement to reduce unauthorized access to prescription drugs.

Brubaker-Cole then discussed observations about the consequences of alcohol and drug use. She began by reviewing data on evaluations and emergency room transportations that take place in campus residence halls, adding that 87% of transports from university housing were from off-campus drinking incidents. Eder noted that the data on transports and evaluations did not address the full range of problematic behavior that might not rise to the level of requiring a medical intervention. Brubaker-Cole stated that staff in the residence halls work closely with Reff on robust education. Next, Brubaker-Cole reported that data indicate a pattern of high-risk drinking across the calendar year with a high point in October, which includes the first four weeks of the quarter and Halloween. Trustee Pat Reser asked about the impact of OSU's academic calendar, and Reff noted that when the first six weeks of the term and events such as Halloween and a home football game all coincide the university has historically seen an increase in high-risk behaviors. Brubaker-Cole said that data points about patterns of high-risk consumption are important as staff plan prevention and response efforts. She added that NCHA data indicate a strong association between high-risk drinking and academic performance, making this topic a matter of student success. Data also indicate a strong correlation between alcohol use and sexual assault, and while alcohol is neither a root cause nor the sole factor, there is an association between the two.

Next, Brubaker-Cole presented prevention actions in which staff have been engaged to improve the current state of student alcohol and drug use. She described a three-pronged prevention strategy, beginning with universal environmental interventions aimed at creating conditions for the total population that are conducive to healthy behaviors. As an example, Barnes spoke to the role of alcohol in tailgating, which is an area that stretches across student, alumni, and athletic affairs. He reported that Athletics staff and key partners are continuing efforts to facilitate a strong, robust fan experience, including forming an external fan experience committee. This group will look at national best practices and will help craft recommendations on strategies to balance a positive fan experience with the appropriate controls. Brubaker-Cole then discussed the second strategy, which involves developing interventions aimed at high-risk populations. For example, she noted that entering populations complete the AlcoholEdu and Haven interactive online educational modules, which contain research-driven prevention and educational materials on the topics of alcohol and sexual violence. Lastly, Brubaker-Cole discussed strategies focused on individuals who are in need of intervention and education.

Following the presentation, trustees discussed the data on high-risk behaviors and the university's prevention actions. Kelly asked what is known about factors that contribute to trends in high-risk behaviors. Reff reported that shifts can be attributed to changes in state policies, such as the legalization of recreational marijuana; changes in local practices, such as the university's relationship with Greek organizations; increases in public health interventions; and shifts in the local climate, such as following the death of a student. He also noted that, following his hire, the university has begun implementing a

comprehensive alcohol and drug prevention and education strategy based in science and research. Reser asked about strategies to help minimize behaviors during known high-risk times. Reff noted examples such as working with Athletics to reach student-athletes when they arrive to campus in the summer and scheduling in-person workshops in residence halls during fall term. He added that planning is underway for a large event during Welcome Week that would help to set norms early and shift campus culture around alcohol and other drugs.

As another matter of campus culture, Eder pointed to the importance of considering the university's associations and formal affiliations with companies that produce and sell alcohol. Trustees also discussed high-risk behavior among Greek-affiliated students as a particular area of concern. Brubaker-Cole shared that she had charged a committee with a comprehensive review of Greek organizations and also noted that forthcoming revisions to the Student Conduct Code would make clear to students that they could be held accountable for violations, even if behaviors occurred off campus. Lastly, trustees discussed their plan for continued engagement with this topic. Reser spoke about the committee's role in continuing to ask questions to move to a point of confidence that the university is addressing the issue and in requesting focus on additional areas where needed. Brubaker-Cole thanked trustees for their engagement with this issue and offered to return to report on how strategies and data are evolving. Kelly concluded by noting the committee would continue the conversation at a future meeting.

5. Adjournment

With no further business proposed, Chair Kelly adjourned the meeting at 3:36 p.m.