



The Board of Trustees of Oregon State University

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Regular Meeting of the Academic Strategies Committee

January 19, 2017

Horizon Room, Memorial Union  
Corvallis, Oregon

## MINUTES

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

**Other Trustees Present:** Mark Baldwin, Patty Bedient, Rani Borkar, Darry Callahan, Brett Morgan, Ed Ray and Kirk Schueler

**University Staff Present:** Jennifer Almquist, Sherm Bloomer, Susie Brubaker-Cole, Susan Capalbo, Mary Chuinard (*head academic advisor, College of Earth, Ocean, and Atmospheric Sciences*), Steve Clark, Debbie Colbert, John Conley (*co-director, Materials Synthesis and Characterization Facility*), Lisa Gaines (*director, Institute for Natural Resources*), Becca Gose, Roy Haggerty (*associate vice president for research*), Mark Huey, Clay Simmons, Patti Snopkowski, Marcia Stuart, Brett Tyler (*director, Center for Genome Research and Biocomputing*), Jamon Van Den Hoek (*assistant professor, CEOAS*), Shelby Walker (*director, Oregon Sea Grant*) and Robert Wheatcroft (*professor, CEOAS*)

**Guests:** Jonathan Sassaman (*chief of police, City of Corvallis*)

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

Committee Chair Paul Kelly called the meeting to order at 12:30 p.m., asked Assistant Board Secretary Mark Huey to call the roll, and noted a quorum.

### 2. Interim Provost's Report

Interim Provost and Executive Vice President Ron Adams reported that Dr. Edward Feser has been appointed OSU's next provost and executive vice president. His appointment will become effective on February 28, 2017, and efforts are underway to ensure a smooth transition. Adams stated that he will continue to advance various projects related to Strategic Plan 3.0 and focus on positioning the university to move into its next strategic plan ("SP4.0").

### 3. Consent Agenda

A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes of the October 20, 2016 Academic Strategies Committee meeting. The motion carried.

### 4. Action Item

#### a. New Academic Program: BS in Geography and Geospatial Science

Kelly asked Adams to introduce the presenters of this item. Before doing so, Adams shared that he has been in communication with colleagues at the University of Oregon about their new major in Spatial Data Science and Technology. The statewide Provosts' Council approved this program with the knowledge that a complementary major was being proposed at OSU. Adams then introduced Professor, College of Earth, Ocean, and

Atmospheric Sciences (CEOAS), Robert Wheatcroft and Assistant Professor, CEOAS, Jamon Van Den Hoek to present the proposal. Wheatcroft started the presentation with a brief overview of the college, its vision and mission, organization by discipline, research, and degree programs. Wheatcroft noted that the proposed Bachelor of Science (BS) in Geography and Geospatial Science (GGS) would build on existing courses and faculty, thus the costs associated with establishing the program would be minimal. Wheatcroft also emphasized that degree programs in CEOAS are highly selective and that the college has demonstrated success in graduating students with little debt who, on average, receive job offers within three months of graduation.

With that introduction, Van Den Hoek shared that in 2012 the former BS in Geography was moved from a standalone degree into an option under a new BS in Earth Science. Over the past five years, the college's professional certification in Geospatial Information Science has grown dramatically, sustaining enrollment both on campus and via Ecampus. The new BS in GGS capitalizes on the student interest in geospatial science and combines it with a modernized and expanded geography curriculum. The resulting degree would prepare students with the breadth and depth needed for careers in the rapidly growing geospatial industry. He noted that, in addition to meeting student and industry demand, the new BS in GGS will situate OSU as the only four-year institution in Oregon to offer a degree that brings together geography and geospatial science.

Kelly asked about the rationale for establishing the standalone BS in Geography and Geospatial Science just five years after the geography degree was moved to an option under the Earth Sciences degree. Van Den Hoek pointed to a number of recently hired faculty whose breadth of interdisciplinary skills and perspectives provides new opportunities to explore connections between geography concepts and applications in contemporary and environmental issues. Kelly inquired about the potential career opportunities for graduates. Van Den Hoek responded that students who graduate with a BS in GGS will be prepared for careers in industries such as nanotechnology, biotechnology, geospatial intelligence, and international development.

Vice Chair Michele Longo Eder asked about how the proposed program would support students transferring to OSU from community colleges. Wheatcroft noted that nearly half of the students in the college's undergraduate degree programs are transfer students, and the proposed BS is designed to be completed in two years of full-time study in order to serve both these students and students who enroll as freshman at OSU. He added that community colleges serve as important conduits of diversity and then invited Mary Chuinard, head advisor, CEOAS to speak about the GeoPathways program. Chuinard said the National Science Foundation funds the program as a way to recruit, mentor, and support students who transfer to geosciences bachelor's degree programs from two-year colleges. President Ray added that the BS in GGS is an important part of a goal of the broader Marine Studies Initiative, which is to improve educational attainment in Oregon Coast Counties. Both Ray and Chuinard remarked on the potential to further enhance the program's reach by engaging students through Ecampus. Committee member Eder and Trustee Brett Morgan both commended CEOAS for the high quality of its degree programs and strong reputation in industry and across the state.

Following a discussion, Chair Kelly reminded the committee that the charter amendments approved in October 2016 give authority to the Academic Strategies Committee to approve the establishment of a program without referring the decision to the full Board. A motion was made and seconded that the Academic Strategies Committee approve the establishment of a BS in Geography and Geospatial Science, effective fall 2017, pending the approval of the statewide Provosts' Council, the Higher Education Coordinating

Commission and the Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities. The motion carried.

## 5. Education/Discussion Items

### a. Research Enterprise

Kelly invited Vice President for Research Cindy Sagers to talk about the research enterprise at OSU broadly and, more specifically, the role of centers and institutes in advancing the university's research profile. Sagers introduced newly appointed Associate Vice President for Research Roy Haggerty. Sagers and Haggerty reported that OSU's research funding reached \$336 million in Fiscal Year 2016, making the university 86<sup>th</sup> in the nation for research expenditures. A recent major initiative has been the development of the Research Office's first-ever strategic plan, which will help move the research enterprise forward in the coming years. The Research Office is currently conducting an analysis of strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats, which will inform conversations with stakeholders such as distinguished researchers and the Provost's Council. A draft of the strategic plan will be presented at a future meeting of the Board of Trustees.

Sagers then introduced four directors to talk about the role of research centers and institutes. Co-Director, Materials Synthesis and Characterization Facility (MaSC), John Conley spoke about the role new discoveries in materials has in advancing technologies, noting that MaSC partners with industry to foster new technologies. Conley added that plans are being advanced to build a larger facility to accommodate students, staff, faculty, and industry partners. This type of shared-use facility offers the opportunity to maximize equipment, enhance student and faculty productivity, and encourage collaboration. Director, Institute for Natural Resources (INR), Lisa Gaines stated that her institute was established by the Oregon Legislature with the aim of facilitating connections between research and natural resource decision making. The INR, which is co-located at Portland State University, engages in a number of efforts to help ensure that science influences policy and management in robust ways. Director, Oregon Sea Grant, Shelby Walker described the work of her program as broadly addressing issues that impact coastal communities. Oregon Sea Grant is part of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Sea Grant College Program and is funded by federal and state appropriations. The program engages in education, extension, and research in support of efforts that have direct social relevance. Director, Center for Genome Research and Biocomputing (CGRB), Brett Tyler described the work of his center as strengthening genome-enabled and data-driven research in the life and environmental sciences. He noted that the CGBR Core Facilities provide collaborative expertise and cutting-edge services to 120 affiliated faculty, which enables more cooperative research. Trustee Rani Borkar commended Sagers, Haggerty, and the directors of all research centers and institutes for their work and expressed a desire to see this more effectively communicated outside of OSU. Sagers stated that advancing and communicating the work of the research centers and institutes would be a component of the Research Office's strategic plan.

### b. Students and Corvallis Community Livability

Chair Kelly invited Vice President for University Relations and Marketing Steve Clark, Vice Provost for Student Affairs Susie Brubaker-Cole, and City of Corvallis Chief of Police Jonathan Sassaman to present on this item. Clark stated that they would be providing updates on matters discussed at previous committee and Board meetings related to some of the joint and independent efforts involving OSU and the City of Corvallis.

Brubaker-Cole noted the connection between high-risk student behaviors and livability, stating that OSU has taken a number of steps to improve student success and well-being.

She pointed to results of the 2016 National College Health Assessment, in which the university is a participant, noting that, for the first time in 14 years, OSU is below the national average for self-reported high-risk drinking. However, she added that OSU has not seen a decrease in such behaviors among men who are affiliated with Greek organizations. Brubaker-Cole noted there has been some success in addressing this trend through population-based education programs and that the student body, as a whole, has demonstrated an increased awareness of the link between alcohol use and sexual violence. While interventions at this level will continue, she is charging a task force to work to ensure a healthy, thriving and sustainable future for Fraternity & Sorority Life at OSU. She said the efforts to address high-risk alcohol use would include a focus on shifting the tailgating culture at athletics events. Brubaker-Cole added that there is an effort underway to finalize changes to the Student Code of Conduct, which will clarify jurisdiction in relation to off-campus behaviors and remove the need for a citation or police report to be issued before the university can start a conduct case.

Next, Sassaman provided an overview of the philosophy of community policing, which informs efforts related to community livability. He explained that central to this approach is the belief that everyone in the community should expect to be safe and secure, and, to achieve this, the Corvallis Police Department must establish connections with the community. Sassaman said this philosophy also extends to work with OSU, and he noted that, since the establishment of a partnership between the university and the City of Corvallis, there has been an approximately 45% drop in livability service calls. President Ray posed a question about the meaning of this statistic in the context of OSU's enrollment growth, and Sassaman stated that he was particularly pleased to see a decline in offenses under those conditions. Sassaman added that previously awarded grant funding from the university will further support these efforts by adding three more community livability officers before fall term. Eder asked about opportunities to engage students, particularly those living in fraternity and sorority houses, in continuing education about their rights and responsibilities as members of the Corvallis community. Brubaker-Cole noted that the task force she is charging will be considering this in their review of national best practices. She added that the university has an opportunity to impact community livability by ensuring that students are provided affordable options to live on campus. Brubaker-Cole noted that the university has seen an increase in the number of students returning to campus housing in their second year, and she announced that the university will be building a new 200-unit development to house upper-division students on campus.

Clark then provided an update on transportation and parking. He said the university, alone and in partnership with the City of Corvallis, has taken specific, intentional measures to improve parking and transit systems. He added that the university's zonal parking system, which was implemented in 2014, has helped the university to more efficiently manage its parking capacity and to reduce the burden on surrounding neighborhoods.

Because of time constraints, Kelly did not invite questions and instead asked to revisit this topic at a future committee meeting in order to allow for discussion.

**c. OSU Freedom of Expression and Purpose, Priorities & Philosophy of Campus Response to Student Protest**

Brubaker-Cole presented on the university's position on freedom of expression. She said OSU is committed to fully protecting freedom of speech, adding that the university has received a "green light" rating from the Foundation for Individual Rights in Education for our policies around free speech. Brubaker-Cole noted that the university maintains the right to reasonably regulate the time, place, and manner of expression as well as the right to speak out against speech that runs counter to OSU's commitment to inclusive and equitable

educational opportunity. Brubaker-Cole also presented the university's philosophy and procedures regarding protest. She stated that the procedures for response to protest neither establish new policy nor require anything new of anyone who decides to engage in protest; rather, they guide OSU staff in their response. Trustee Reser asked how staff and faculty were being made aware of the university's philosophy and procedures. Brubaker-Cole said that the documents have been presented and discussed with the President's Cabinet and Provost's Council and that outreach to faculty and staff will be ongoing. President Ray spoke to the need to prepare people to respond instantly when protests form without advance notice, and Brubaker-Cole added that the outreach about the philosophy and procedures references the Office of Student Life as a first point of contact for questions or concerns.

Because of time constraints, Chair Kelly did not invite additional questions, and he asked Senior Vice Provost for Academic Affairs Susan Capalbo to hold her report for the next meeting. He adjourned the meeting at 3:17 p.m.

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

Chair Kelly reconvened the meeting at 4:05 p.m. and invited Capalbo to provide her report to the committee. She began by reporting on reviews in progress for new and existing academic programs, reminding the committee of the three stages of review for new academic programs. Capalbo then provided an overview of the list of academic program proposals under review or under preparation for review. She said that once academic degree programs are created, they must be continually evaluated and updated. She emphasized the importance of maintaining a dynamic review process in order to develop, maintain, and evolve programs to attract quality students. Capalbo discussed the table of programs she provided the committee that summarized the 10-year external reviews completed in 2016, underway, or scheduled. Capalbo then reminded the committee that trustees have asked her to include an update on the status of accreditations in future reports, and she discussed the new table created in response to this request.

She said that OSU is accredited by the Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities (NWCCU). OSU was last accredited in 2011, using the previous ten-year accreditation cycle, but the university is now participating in NWCCU's revised seven-year accreditation cycle. Capalbo noted that the next site visit by NWCCU is tentatively scheduled to occur during winter term 2019. She also stated that two administrative units within the college of veterinary medicine are currently under review. Trustees discussed where responsibility for various levels of curricular visioning and oversight resides, noting that, while the level of detail provided in Capalbo's report is important, it would also be informative to hear more about the overall vision for the university's academic programs. Capalbo said that level of visioning would happen at the Provost's Office and that such a discussion could be included in a future meeting.

**6. Adjournment**

With no additional business proposed, Kelly adjourned the meeting at 4:26 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jennifer M. Almquist  
Assistant Board Secretary