**Board of Trustees of the University of Oregon**

**Meeting Summary | June 24, 2020**

**Attendance.**

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| Marcia Aaron | Present | Joe Gonyea, III | Present | Jimmy Murray | Present |
| Connie Ballmer | Present | Elisa Hornecker | Present | Ginevra Ralph | Present |
| Peter Bragdon | Present | Ross Kari | Present | Michael Schill | Present |
| Andrew Colas | Present | Chuck Lillis | Present | Mary Wilcox | Present |
| Allyn Ford | Present | Laura Lee McIntyre | Present | Katharine Wishnia | Present |

**Convening.** The Board of Trustees of the University of Oregon (Board) met via video conference on June 24, 2020. A livestream and a teleconference option were made available to the public for purposes of listening in on the proceedings. The meeting was called to order by Chair Chuck Lillis at 1:01 p.m. A quorum was verified. Below is a summary of the meeting’s proceedings; a full audio recording is available upon request.

**Renaming Deady Hall.** Chair Lillis asked the board secretary to recap public comment received. Angela Wilhelms, secretary, noted that the overwhelming number of submissions were in favor, but there were some opposed. President Schill opened the discussion regarding whether to rename Deady Hall, named after Matthew Deady, by reflecting on the deeply rooted racism that exists in the United States, and on the current events in Eugene and across the nation. He noted the importance of reflecting on how we can confront racism, including proactive actions on campus. He recapped some of the steps taken on campus thus far, noting that much work remains. He thanked Trustee Andrew Colas for raising this issue during the June 4 board meeting, and thanked the students, faculty and staff who had asked to rename Deady Hall a few years ago, noting that it is they who deserve the credit for ultimately getting the UO to this moment. He then provided an overview of how his thinking on the issue has evolved since 2015-2017, when the issue was first before him. He noted that this information in is the memo provided to the board (which is in the meeting materials). Schill emphasized his belief that, so long as Deady Hall remains so named, it will be an affront to black students and send a signal that they are not welcome here—something which could not be further from what this academic community stands for. He discussed the importance of not rewriting or erasing history, that there is an educational opportunity for future generations to learn from Deady’s history, and that not everyone will agree with this decision, which is something to understand and respect. President Schill urged the trustees to rename Deady Hall, temporarily naming it University Hall while he identifies a process for permanently renaming the building.

Vice Chair Ginevra Ralph noted that she intends to support the resolution, but wanted to emphasize that this action does not erase or rewrite history, nor does it erase all of Deady’s accomplishments. She noted that people know more now than in the past about Deady’s work and legacy. Trustee Katharine Wishnia spoke in favor of the resolution, noting that it was important to make sure that the impact on students from his name being on the building was shared. She noted that this is an issue that has been discussed for decades, and that she does not believe it is acceptable to leave his name on the building. Trustee Mary Wilcox thanked Colas and Schill for giving the board this opportunity today, and noted that she supports the resolution. Trustee Joe Gonyea echoed the comments of others, thanking Colas for his leadership and for continuing to help educate others. He reflected on what he has learned during current times and noted that he hopes this is one small step forward for the university. Trustee Laura Lee McIntyre emphasized the importance of not maintaining the status quo, noting that—in an ever changing world—the status quo amounts to regression, and that the UO must take as many steps forward as fast as possible. Colas thanked his colleagues for their consideration of this resolution, and noted that his work—whether on this board or elsewhere—is rooted in support for future generations, to create a better opportunity for the next generation of youth. He noted that today’s decision could mark a step forward for the institution in the academic community, and that he looks forward to continued work with his colleagues to move the institution forward. Trustee Marcia Aaron asked when trustees can expect information and recommendations from the Committee on Recognizing our Diverse History. Schill noted that there is an interim report from the CRDH’s original charge (prior academic years) that he is reviewing and will share, and that he is adjusting the group’s charge going forward. He explained that its work will be ongoing with a recommendation by the end of the upcoming academic year. Schill also discussed the work that Provost Patrick Phillips will engage on with regard to better embedding actions into academic programming and growing the number of diverse faculty. Schill also announced that he has asked Colas to lead a group of black UO stakeholders that can be a leadership team to help advance ideas and initiatives to strengthen the community for black students at the UO. Aaron then asked if there can be time dedicated in the fall to learning more about the various demands made of the institution and the institution’s responses thereto.

*ACTION: A resolution renaming Deady Hall was moved by Peter Bragdon and seconded by Mary Wilcox. It was approved by a vote of 14-0.*

**Adjournment.** The meeting was adjourned at 1:30 p.m.