

## **Board of Trustees of the University of Oregon Academic and Student Affairs Committee**

June 2, 2016

## **Committee Membership**

Present
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The Academic and Student Affairs Committee (ASAC) of the Board of Trustees of the University of Oregon (Board) met in the Ford Alumni Center on the University of Oregon (UO) campus on June 2, 2016. Below is a summary of committee discussions and actions. An audio recording is maintained on file.

**Convening, Introduction, Approval of Minutes.** ASAC Chair Mary Wilcox called the meeting to order at 10:39 a.m. Roll call was taken and a quorum verified. Chair Wilcox provided an overview of the agenda items. The committee approved the minutes from the March 2016 and April 2016 meetings without amendment.

**Public Comment.** There were no requests to provide public comment.

**Update on University Ombuds Program and Initiatives.** Interim Ombudsperson Jennifer Reynolds provided an update on the university Ombuds program. Reynolds described the Ombuds department as an impartial resource to the UO campus community and provider of feedback to the university. Reynolds reported on her goals as well as recently completed and ongoing departmental initiatives. Recently completed projects include approval of the department charter; the program's move to its new location at 1685 East 17<sup>th</sup> Street; and the organization of office documents, processes, and website. Current initiatives include tracking marketing and communication needs of the office, providing a support role in the permanent Ombudsperson search and providing a detailed perspective on the role of the ombudsperson and recommendations for the future Ombudsperson to university leadership. Reynolds also spoke about conflict and communication workshops that the department has begun to offer and engaged in conversation with trustees regarding the role of the Ombudsperson, particularly in handling visitors' cases. General Counsel Kevin Reed, chair of the search committee, provided an update on the search for a permanent Ombudsperson.

Overview of Graduate Education at the UO. Graduate School Dean Scott Pratt walked trustees through the Graduate School's degree programs and associated academic and research requirements. Dean Pratt spoke about faculty composition, enrollment statistics, student demographics and the UO's attributes in relation to AAU peers. Pratt also reported on the Academic Year (AY) 2015-16 six part plan for doctoral education and shared results based on recently established program success metrics. The plan focused on objectives such as increased PhD student recruitment, student diversity, increased doctoral fellowships and improved career placement support. Dean Pratt highlighted the objectives of the AY16-17 plan and spoke to long term goals and strategies. Dean Pratt answered trustees' questions related to funding support, quality and priorities in graduate education.

University Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Initiatives Update. Vice President for Equity and Inclusion Yvette Alex-Assensoh presented the IDEAL (Inclusion, Diversity, Evaluation, Achievement and Leadership) framework plan, designed to leverage diversity and inclusion in the UO community to facilitate success and excellence. Alex-Assensoh identified plan priorities as faculty hiring and retention; student access and success; and training, professional development and climate. She spoke to the complimentary relationship between the IDEAL Framework and the UO's broader Strategic Framework and highlighted the aspirational approach of the plan. President Schill reported on the progress made toward meeting requests of the Black Students Task Force, summarizing six recommendations that are already in progress and the status of the remaining requests. President Schill and Alex-Assensoh also spoke about future campus-wide involvement, including diversity plans created by each department. Trustees expressed appreciation of the work completed and initiatives started.

**Adjournment.** The meeting adjourned at 12:17 p.m.