Committee Membership
Connie Ballmer Present
Rudy Chapa Present
Ann Curry Present
Allyn Ford Present
Michael Schill Present
Will Paustian Present
Mary Wilcox, Chair Present
Kurt Willcox Present

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 September 8, 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 8:34 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 June 2016 meeting without amendment.

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

Academic Program Review. Senior Vice President and Provost Scott Coltrane, along with Senior Vice Provost Susan Anderson and Assistant Vice Provost Sierra Dawson, provided trustees with an overview of the program review processes and practices at the UO. Coltrane noted that processes are similar to other public research universities. The panel discussed the makeup of review panels, data used in reviewing programs, and some specific examples of recent reviews (and outcomes thereof) at the UO. Trustees asked questions about the role of individual deans, follow-up practices, and alignment of program review with strategic intent and direction. Coltrane, Anderson and Dawson also spoke about ideas for redesign of the process at the UO, now that it is no longer under the control of the former statewide system, to improve outcomes. Coltrane also addressed a question regarding cultural attitudes toward program review given the robust and time-consuming nature of the analyses.

Student Success Initiatives. The board heard from a panel dedicated to efforts around student success: Lisa Freinkel, Vice Provost and Dean for Undergraduate Studies; Doneka Scott, Associate Vice Provost for Student Success; and Ron Bramhall, Associate Vice Provost for Academic Excellence. Freinkel, Scott and Bramhall spoke about the president’s objective to raise four-year graduation rates by 10 points with the graduating class of 2020 (which enters as freshmen this fall). They shared with trustees some of the quantifiable data and more qualifiable metrics used to analyze how they can identify, capture and work with students necessary to meet that goal. The trustees expressed gratitude and compliments for the focused work being done in this area, especially the trajectory of focus within the last year. Trustees also expressed support for Chair Wilcox’s statement that this topic will be a quarterly point of discussion.

Adjournment. The meeting adjourned at 10:17 a.m.