

Committee Membership

Elisa Hornecker, Chair	Present	Jenny Ulum	Present
Toya Fick	Present	Ruby Wool	Present
Ed Madison	Present	Dennis Worden	Present
Amy Tykeson	Present		

Convening. The Academic and Student Affairs Committee of the University of Oregon Board of Trustees met at the Ford Alumni Center on the Eugene campus June 3rd, 2024. Committee Chair Elisa Hornecker called the meeting to order at 1:00 pm Pacific Time. (All times noted going forward are noted in Pacific Time). The Secretary verified attendance and a quorum.

Provost's Report. Karen Ford, interim vice provost, provided an overview of the afternoon's presentations. Ford opened her remarks noting new Provost Chris Long will be on campus soon to assume duties. Ford then provided an overview of the afternoon's agenda. Next, Ford highlighted several recipients of university awards, efforts to expand faculty support services, updates to the program approval reporting process, updates on dean searches in the Clark Honors College, Lundquist College of Business, and the opening in the Law School. Trustees engaged in questions and discussion on items including, but not limited to work with students to update them on changes to the student conduct code.

School/College in Focus – College of Arts and Sciences. Chris Poulsen, dean of the college of arts and sciences presented on the college of arts and sciences (CAS). Poulsen described the size and scope of CAS noting that it contains nearly 51% of the university's undergraduate students, has over 50 majors, 36 master's programs, and 25 PhD programs. Poulsen reviewed CAS's top 10 majors, noting the growth in environmental studies, psychology, and cinema studies. Recent additions to the school include, cybersecurity, materials science and technology, a school of computer and data science, and a school of global studies and language. Poulsen emphasized CAS's efforts to maximize experiential learning opportunities for students, the quality of faculty, and research focused on making a better world. Poulsen reviewed CAS's recent strategic planning efforts which emphasizes the value of impact and preparing students for their experience beyond college and has three themes, education for a complex and changing world, impactful scholarship, and fostering a culture of well-being and belonging. A key priority will be embedding a culture of career readiness into CAS. Poulsen closed with a review of challenges and opportunities for CAS, which include developing a distinctly Oregon liberal arts core education for the future, growing and supporting student experiential learning and career preparation, attracting and retaining the best faculty, growing STEM faculty, and raising the quality of our classroom and labs to match the quality of our students and faculty. Trustees engaged in questions and discussion on items including, but not limited to the transition of advising services from central administration to CAS, efforts to establish internship opportunities, how career readiness is embedded into the liberal arts curriculum, the growth of the data science program, the performance of the cybersecurity program, what goals might be related to the challenges and opportunities outlined in the presentation, what changes are made to account for the decline in economics, and opportunities to improve core curriculum.

College of Education’s Institutional Plan for Educator Equity in Teacher Preparation. Laura Lee McIntyre, dean of the college of education and Dianna Carrizales-Engelmann, assistant dean for administration presented on the university’s efforts to diversify the education workforce through its educator preparation programs. The College of Education (COE) receives \$100,000 from the Higher Education Coordinating Commission to support this work. McIntyre reviewed the diversity of students in university educator preparation programs. Carrizales-Engelmann described four ways HECC funds are being used: scholarships, cohesive learning institutes, annual teacher partnership and recognition event, and a professional development program for faculty. Carrizales-Engelmann emphasized that equity-based work is a core element of what the COE does and is complimented by the resources provided by the HECC. Trustees engaged in questions and discussion on items including, but not limited to decline in number of teacher licensures candidates, how the university recruits more diverse classes, efforts to reach out to diverse graduates of university educator prep programs, what non-financial levers may exist to support an increase in workforce diversity, and the opportunity to build your own programs.

Update on the Free Application for Federal Student Aid. Roger Thompson, vice president for student services and enrollment management and Jim Brooks, senior vice president, director of financial aid and scholarships, updated the Board on Federal efforts to reform the Federal Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), the first major reform in 40 years. Brooks reviewed the mismanaged rollout of the 2024 filing process which has resulted in delayed delivery of information, limited access to the form, errors in the form that created inadvertent errors in filing, and other errors that have significantly impacted the ability of potential students to properly file their FAFSA. The errant rollout of the changes to the FAFSA form has led to a 12% decrease in filing numbers in the State of Oregon and an 18.5% decrease in California. The university has seen a 19.5% decrease in the number of FAFSAs received in relation to 2023. One action the university took in response was to extend the date for students to commit to the university to June 1. Brooks described ongoing issues that need to be resolved.

Trustees engaged in questions and discussion on items including, but not limited to timing for responses from students that have received offers, the ability to continue to provide aid packages as FAFSAs continue to be completed, the ability for students to get an estimate of what their package might be, the percent increase of total applications, percent of applicants who receive some form of financial aid, expectations for yield in the coming class, and how this is impacting other institutions.

Meeting Adjourned at 3:20 p.m.