

Attendance.

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

Convening. The Board of Trustees of the University of Oregon (Board) met via video conference on February 2, 2021. A livestream and a teleconference option were made available to the public for the purpose of observing the proceedings. The meeting was called to order by Chair Chuck Lillis at 1:32 p.m. Pacific Time. Below is a summary of the meeting’s proceedings; a full recording is available upon request. President Schill provided a few opening comments about COVID, including current case counts, quarantine and isolation operations, and vaccination planning and community participation.

State and Federal Affairs. Betsy Boyd, associate vice president for federal affairs, provided an introduction about the federal interest in higher education, which ranges from federal student aid to federally-funded research. She provided a recap of key federal issues in 2020, particularly noting the importance of COVID-related federal relief packages for students and institutions of higher education. Boyd also discussed the UO’s 2021 federal priorities, including, but not limited to, ongoing emergency relief, appropriations to key funding areas, student aid, and opportunity and achievement gaps. She closed by providing an overview of what federal advocacy looks like, including direct engagement with students, faculty and staff. Hans Bernard, associate vice president for state affairs, began his discussion with a recap of key state-related issues from 2020 such as pandemic response matters, budget rebalancing and the Public University Support Fund (PUSF), police and public safety reform, and specific funding items to support research and infrastructure. Bernard then outlined the UO’s 2021 legislative priorities, focusing on: PUSF funding levels, capital project investments, education sector liability coverage, basic needs of students, and certain other policy changes. He also discussed policy issues that the UO and other institutions are keeping an eye on as they continue to evolve during the 2021 legislative session. Bernard emphasized the importance of trustees, faculty, staff, and others engaging in advocacy activities, but noted that this session will be different as legislators figure out how to navigate in a mostly remote session environment. Trustees engaged in discussion with Boyd and Bernard on various policy concepts, U.S. Senate committee assignments, state funding and revenue forecasts, federal funding, and the value of research universities.

Housing Transformation Project. Vice President for Student Services and Enrollment Management Roger Thompson and Assist. Vice President and Director for University Housing Michael Griffel walked trustees through the proposal before the Board regarding authorization of phases two and three of the “Housing Transformation Project.” He recapped the overall project goals and reminded trustees about prior approval (2019) of phase one, which is the construction of a new residence hall, a building now nearing completion. Thompson and Griffel walked through some financial models (available in the meeting materials) based on three scenarios, which evaluated factors such as enrollment and staffing levels. The models then provide a look at scenario-based cash flow and financial positions for the Housing and Dining Services auxiliary budget over the next several fiscal years. Trustees and panelists discussed current occupancy rates, the timing of the associated bond issuances, and the collaborative nature of the project.

The resolution to authorize phases 2 and 3 of the Housing Transformation Project was moved by Trustee Gonyea and Seconded by Trustee Kari. It was passed by a vote of 12-0.

Adjournment. The meeting was adjourned at 2:42 p.m.