Executive Session Regarding Collective Bargaining: Mark Schmelz, vice president and chief human resources officer; Chris Meade, director of employee and labor relations.

The Board of Trustees met in executive session pursuant to ORS 192.660(2)(d) for purposes of conducting deliberations regarding labor negotiations. This session was closed to members of the public and the media.

Convening and Approval of Minutes. The Board of Trustees of the University of Oregon (Board) met on the Eugene campus March 12, 2024. Chair Steve Holwerda called the meeting to order at 9:01 a.m. Pacific Time. (All times noted going forward are Pacific Time). The secretary verified attendance and a quorum.

Meeting Minutes. The Board approved the minutes from the December 2023 full board meeting without amendment, as well as minutes from the ASAC, FFC, and EAGC committees. The motion was moved by Aaron, seconded by Evans Jackman

Public Comment:
- Molly Babcock – grad student, support for climate action plan 4
- Andrew DuCharme – student, revise bylaws regarding campus positions attending executive session
- Eric Howanietz, alum, boycott, divest, sanctions
- Emily Beatty, grad student, divest
- Leslie Selcer, grad student, divest
- Brennan Fitzgerald, grad student, divest
- Valentine Bentz, student, climate action plan option 4, divest
- Ian Finn, grad student, climate action plan option 4
- Casandra Basulto, community member, pioneer mother statue
- Andrea Romero, employee, divest, climate action plan option 4
- Maddie Engler, student, housing, climate action plan option 4, divest
- Salem Khoury, student, divest, climate action plan 4
- David Igl, alum, facility naming
- Sanjula Rajat, graduate student, divest
- Jack Dodson, student, climate action plan 4, divest
- Sam Schwartz, grad student, Board feedback
- Abigayle Mitchell, grad student, divest, climate action plan 4
- Dana McCasland, student, slow campus expansion, divest, climate action plan 4
- Iman Zarlons, student, divest
- Kristina Beggen, grad student, divest,
- Chris Case, employee, divest, climate action plan option 4
- Talia Cordova, student, divest
- Carolyn Roderique, student, divest
- Scott Lambert, grad student, divest
- Matthew Tuten, grad student, divest, climate action plan 4
- David Lefevre, student, climate action plan 4, divest
- Romie Avivi Stuhl, student, prioritize student safety
- David Raber, student, prioritize student safety
- Berel Gurevitch, community member, support for students
- Rayna Davis, student, support for student safety

Report from United Academics. Keaton Miller, associate professor of economics, presented United Academics’ (UA) salary proposal in current bargaining. Miller discussed the university’s salary for faculty in relation to Big 10 and AAU institutions. UA is advocating for a $57.6 million annual increase in cost by the third year of the contract, a 9.4% increase for each of the next three years.

Report from SEIU. Johnny Earl, president of SEIU, and Jennifer Smith, incoming SEIU president reported on recent bargaining outcomes which resulted in a contract increase of 13% over three years. Earl shared the financial challenges some SEIU members have faced due to inflation and the importance of the increased compensation found in the contract. Smith provided the Board on changes to business practices.

Associated Students of the University of Oregon. Chloé Webster, ASUO president provided her quarterly report to the Board. Webster began by advocating for greater connection on campus between students and the university, its administrators, faculty, and others. Webster then discussed student basic needs, focusing on the student experience with access to food. Trustees engaged in questions and discussion on legislative support for basic needs and the cost of student food pantries.

University Senate. Vice President Alison Schmitke, and Senate Secretary Sandy Weintraub provided trustees an update on UO Senate priorities. This included participating in the provost search, implementing service task force recommendations, continuing to rebuild UO’s interinstitutional faculty senate relationship. Schmitke also discussed several ongoing initiatives including response to the U.S. supreme court’s ruling on affirmative action and retention of faculty of color.

President’s Report. President Scholz provided the trustees with a report on recent work. Scholz began by discussing the important role universities play in society, the wide support the university receives from alumni, but the low level of state financial support for the institution. Scholz spoke to the multitude of efforts that need to occur to add increased funding to support the broad range of needs to fulfill the university’s mission. Scholz then discussed UO Onward, the university’s strategic planning and priority setting. Trustees engaged in questions and discussion on items including, but not limited to the president’s strategic planning process, environmental sustainability, and the thermal task force recommendations.

Resolution (Action) Approved during March 11th committee action.
ACTION: The motion to approve the seconded motion forwarded by the Finance and Facilities March 11th meeting was moved by Trustee Boyle and seconded by Trustee Evans Jackman. The resolution was approved by a unanimous voice vote.

Seconded Motion from FFC: Naming of the Knight Campus Grove

Tuition and Mandatory Fees. Jamie Moffitt, senior vice president for finance and administration and CFO; Kris Winter, interim vice president for student life (Co-Chairs of the Tuition and Fee Advisory Board) presented the university’s tuition and fee recommendations. Winter began by reviewing the university’s tuition and fee setting process, which includes extensive campus engagement, a broad-based campus committee to develop the recommendation, and open public meetings. Moffitt then reviewed data that provides the basis for the recommendation including historical data on student tuitions, state appropriations per resident students, comparison of state funding with other peer or aspirational peer institutions, and general fund capacity. Moffitt then reviewed current tuition and fees given the university’s guaranteed tuition program and the recommendations for changes to undergraduate and graduate tuition and fees for AY 24/25. Trustees engaged in questions and discussion on, but not limited to schools charging a differential tuition, the inclusion of housing costs in total cost of attendance, the differential increase for the honors college, the length of the tuition guarantee, whether tuition increases align with university budget increases, and the impact of FAFSA delays on fall admissions.

ACTION: The motion to approve the university’s proposal for AY24/25 tuition and fees was moved by Trustee Boyle and seconded by Trustee Moses. The resolution was approved by a unanimous voice vote.

Federal and State Affairs Update. Betsy Boyd, senior associate vice president for federal affairs provided an update on federal advocacy activities noting the transition in the Oregon delegation and current engagement efforts, and fiscal year 2025 research priorities, which include continuing student aid, research priorities, and community-initiated projects. Trent Lutz, associate vice president for state affairs provided a report on state legislative affairs. Lutz discussed the state political composition, university activities to engage state elected officials, and university priorities, which include budget, operations, students, and service. Lutz then discussed several specific legislative priorities, workforce development, student investments, and operational defense. Lutz then discussed the need for increased advocacy to increase state funding for higher education. Trustees engaged in questions and discussion on, but not limited to the results of the state basic needs task force, and what could be done with excess student success act funds.

Adjournment. The meeting was adjourned at 12:25 p.m.