

Board of Trustees of the University of Oregon
Meeting Summary | June 8, 2018

Membership

Marcia Aaron	Present	Chuck Lillis, Chair	Present
Connie Ballmer	Present	Laura Lee McIntyre	Present
Peter Bragdon	Present	Jimmy Murray	Present
Andrew Colas	Present	Will Paustian	Present
Ann Curry	Absent	Ginevra Ralph	Present
Allyn Ford	Present	Michael Schill	Present
Joe Gonyea, III	Present	Mary Wilcox	Present
Ross Kari	Present		

The Board of Trustees of the University of Oregon (Board) met at the Ford Alumni Center on the UO's Eugene campus on June 8, 2018. Below is a summary of Board reports, discussions and actions. An audio recording is maintained on file.

Convening and Approval of Minutes. Chair Chuck Lillis called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m. Roll was taken and a quorum verified. The Board approved the minutes from its March 2018 meeting without amendment.

Public Comment. Following is a list of individuals who spoke and the general topic(s) of their remarks. Full remarks are available on the audio recording.

- *Andrew Park – alumnus, representing Columbia School of English: expressed frustration about the decrease in the international student population at the UO and encouraged the UO to think differently about international student recruitment to reverse this trend*
- *Brendan Adamczyk – undergraduate student: spoke about development along the Willamette's south riverfront (i.e., "north campus") and encouraged student engagement in campus processes and public hearings on proposed plans for this space*

Standing Reports. The Board received standing reports from the following individuals. Full reports are available in the audio recording.

- *ASUO President (2017-18) Amy Schenk and Maria Gallegos (2018-19)*
- *University Senate President (2018-19) Bill Harbaugh*

President's Report. After welcoming new trustee Marcia Aaron to the board, and thanking Chris Sinclair and Amy Schenk for their service this year, President Michael Schill provided an overview on key initiatives over this past academic year. He recapped the status of the Knight Campus for Accelerating Scientific Impact, including construction, leadership, philanthropy, partnerships and programming. He also provided information related to tenure-track faculty hires and the UO's progress toward its goal of a net increase of 80 TTF by 2020 (currently +60). Schill also provided an update about his use of the Presidential Fund for Excellence, including: data science, the new Media Center for Science and Technology, the Oregon Research Schools Network, Urbanism Next, the Biology and Built Environment Center, and matching funds for new endowed faculty chairs (three matched thus far). Schill discussed efforts around advising, including Tykeson Hall progress, academic and career advising investments, and an expansion of

PathwayOregon. He shared information with trustees about institutional efforts relating to diversity, equity and inclusion, highlighting the continued work resulting from the Black Student Task Force. Trustees heard a brief recap about the president’s Freedom of Expression Series, and the budget and cost pressures facing the institution from the state. He walked trustees through the differential tuition framework which will be in place to guide any future proposals to enact differential tuition. Lastly, Schill introduced the topic of honorary degrees — on the agenda for later in the afternoon — noting his enthusiastic recommendation of Lorry Lokey and Carrie Mae Weems as recipients for an honorary doctorate from the UO.

Seconded Motions from Committee. Trustee Ross Kari provided an overview of the two motions from the FFC committee, which came to the committee unanimously.

ACTION: The seconded motion from the Finance and Facilities Committee to adopt FY19 budget and expenditure authorizations was approved by voice vote without dissent.

ACTION: The seconded motion from the Finance and Facilities Committee to enact modifications to the policy governing retirement plan management was approved by voice vote without dissent.

Trustee Mary Wilcox provided an overview of the seconded motions coming from the Academic and Student Affairs Committee relating to the Student Conduct Code. She noted that the first resolution, presented as Part A, was unanimously supported, but that Part B was not. Trustees Ginevra Ralph and Allyn Ford articulated their reasons for voting “no” on the proposal, and reiterated the request made by ASAC that the Dean of Students and Conduct Committee work together to further clarify language, returning to the Board with recommendations for amendments that could help with such clarifications.

ACTION: The seconded motion from the Academic and Student Affairs Committee to amend the Student Conduct Code with 17 changes, forwarded as “PART A” to the full board was approved by voice vote without dissent.

ACTION: The seconded motion from the Academic and Student Affairs Committee to amend the Student Conduct Code with one additional change, forwarded as “PART B” to the full board was approved by vote of 7-6 (Nos: Aaron, Colas, Ford, Murray, Paustian, Ralph).

Volcanology, Volcanic Hazards, and Geothermal Energy. Paul Wallace, professor and department head in Earth Sciences, and Joe Dufek, the Lillis professor of volcanology, provided an overview of the academic cluster of excellence in Volcanology, Volcanic Hazards, and Geothermal Energy. Wallace began by articulating why volcanic research is relevant to global safety, health, and economics. He also explained the rationale behind the formation of the cluster of excellence, which was to create an internationally-renowned center of gravity for earth science research at the UO (which has a long and highly-respected history in this space already). Dufek then provided some specific examples of research conducted by scientists in the cluster using recent volcanic activity as a framework, and drawing upon the various disciplines related to the research. Dufek showed examples of simulation tools built to help researchers understand—and hopefully predict—impacts from volcanic activity. Trustees engaged in discussion with the professors on topics including: relationships with US Geological Survey (USGS) and other federal partnerships, progress in predicting volcanic activity and alert systems, and inter-institutional collaborations.

Data Science Initiative. Bill Cresko, professor of biology and director of the presidential initiative on data science, provided trustees with an update on the UO's emerging activity and plans in this space. Cresko noted that the visioning committee is finishing its work next week and will then make a formal recommendation for next steps to the president and provost. He started the presentation with an overview of what data science is and how we think about it in a modern society and particularly, at a modern research institution. He noted that his group thinks of it in terms of big data and data analytics combined, looking in detail at areas of volume (sheer quantity), velocity (speed of generation), variety (of form), and veracity (trustworthiness). Cresko also talked about the highly inter-disciplinary nature of data science, noting that it may be rooted in math or statistics, but is inherently cross functional—impacting economics, health, business, computer science, law, journalism, physical science, music, art, libraries, etc. This diversity has led the DSI visioning committee to recommend a hub-and-spoke model for the UO's approach, with a central, university-level institute that then works collaboratively with various departments. In turn, this leads to a recommendation for academic programming (e.g., majors, minors, certificates, graduate degrees) that link traditional disciplines through a data science focus. Cresko discussed with trustees existing and emerging partnerships with institutions other than the UO, such as OHSU and the University of Washington, which will allow us to be more adept and expansive. He noted that a large part of this is the expanded network connectivity lead by the Information Systems on campus, throughout the State of Oregon, and up and down the west coast. This type of infrastructure is necessary to the success of this initiative. Cresko closed by talking about key milestones for the initiative and the visioning committee; the next two years will focus on building the research base, launching a research program, securing additional financial resources and internal management structures, and building support and enthusiasm on campus.

The board recessed at 11:58 and reconvened at 12:45 p.m.

IDEAL Framework. Vicki DeRose, professor and director of CODAC (Center on Diversity and Community), provided an overview of the various units within the Division of Equity and Inclusion (DEI) and then walked trustees through the mission of the Division. Lesley-Anne Pittard, assistant vice president and director of programming for CMAE (Center for Multicultural Academic Excellence), discussed the context of DEI work with the trustees, including notions of equity and issues on campus, community efforts at the state, local, and federal level, and global perspectives through faculty, staff, and students. Vice President for Equity and Inclusion Yvette Alex-Assensoh then provided an overview of the strategy for implementation of the IDEAL Framework, which is now two years old. Key points of the strategy include embedding equity and inclusion in the daily practices and policies of the UO, aligning units around the shared vision within IDEAL, and then mobilizing people to do the work. She noted that DEI views its role in the context of helping academic and administrative units work through issues, potential challenges, or pinch points in advancing the overall mission. Alex-Assensoh then provided a recap of progress to date, including challenges (such as pockets of resistance, communication, resources, bandwidth, and national climate) and successes (such as implementation of diversity action plans, early adopters and enthusiasm, supportive leadership, and new steps in hiring processes). Trustees engaged the panel in discussion around how you successfully and reasonably measure progress and outcomes, faculty and staff retention, strategies used which have been successful thus far, attention to inclusion as it relates to mobility, gender-neutral restrooms, and recruitment of underrepresented minority students.

Honorary Degrees. President Schill introduced the topic of honorary degrees to the trustees, noting that this endeavor results from enthusiasm from campus leadership and a renewed focus on the process and selection criteria for such awards. Schill briefly recapped the process for selecting recipients, including the

committee's solicitation of nominations and vetting those nominees against the criteria. He then discussed each of his recommendations in turn: Carrie Mae Weems and Lorry I. Lokey. He shared that both are native Oregonians and provided more biographical information about both individuals, noting their achievements and personal accomplishments as well as their contributions to the UO and society as a whole.

ACTION: The resolution to confer an honorary doctorate to Carrie Mae Weems was moved by Ralph and seconded by Kari; it was approved by voice vote without dissent.

ACTION: The resolution to confer an honorary doctorate to Lorry I. Lokey was moved by Gonyea and seconded by McIntyre; it was approved by voice vote without dissent.

Adjournment. The meeting adjourned at 1:35 p.m.