

**Board of Trustees of the University of Oregon
Academic and Student Affairs Committee
Meeting Summary | March 4, 2019**

Committee Membership

Connie Ballmer	Present	Will Paustian	Present
Ann Curry	Absent	Michael Schill	Present
Allyn Ford	Present	Mary Wilcox, Chair	Present
Laura Lee McIntyre	Present		

The Academic and Student Affairs Committee (ASAC) of the Board of Trustees of the University of Oregon (Board) met at the Erb Memorial Union on the UO’s Eugene campus on March 4, 2019. Below is a summary of committee discussions and actions. An audio recording is maintained on file.

Convening and Approval of Minutes. ASAC Chair Mary Wilcox called the meeting to order at 10:04 a.m. The secretary recorded roll and a quorum was verified. The committee approved the minutes from the December 2018 meeting without amendment.

Provost’s Report. Provost and Senior Vice President Jayanth Banavar provided his quarterly report to the committee. He began by updating them on the appointment of Doneka Scott as vice provost for Undergraduate Education and Student Success, noting her accomplishments as associate vice provost and discussing her primary goals for the future. He updated the committee on the appointment of Dennis Galvan as vice provost and dean of the Division of Global Engagement and spoke about Galvan’s efforts and vision for global engagement at the UO. Banavar provided an update on the Tykeson Hall construction and plans for opening and getting programming online. He also told the committee about a memorial hosted by the College of Education for Evergreen Professor Tasia Smith, who passed away earlier this academic year. Banavar updated the committee on the UO’s selection for a National Science Foundation (NSF) ASPIRE grant, which seeks to bolster institutional efforts around equity and inclusion, including faculty recruitment and retention.

Data Science Initiative. Professor Bill Cresko, executive director of the Data Science Initiative (DSI), provided an update on the progress made this academic year. He began with an explanation of the new tagline for the DSI, “Data Empowering People” which he believes encapsulates the goal of the initiative being inclusive, interdisciplinary, collaborative, and solutions-oriented. Cresko updated the committee on the hub-and-spoke model of the initiative, specifically with regard to individuals who are rounding out the core DSI team. He noted that many of the goals for the upcoming year will be focused on educational opportunities – degree development, instructional programming, and the like. This will involve reviewing what other institutions do, consulting with stakeholders about what makes the most sense for the UO, and embarking on the required steps to get programming approved. Cresko also noted that the initiative is interested in seed grant funding opportunities for competitive awards to generate ideas. Cresko announced a new initiative, a partnership between the Knight Cancer Center at OHSU and the Knight Campus for Accelerating Scientific Impact at the UO. This Knight-to-Knight partnership will focus on data analytics at the cellular level, working collaboratively between the two institutions to advance knowledge about biomedical data analysis. Cresko discussed with trustees the plan for degree development, faculty hiring, using existing faculty on campus, and the timing of approval processes. Cresko also discussed the possibility of a hybrid degree approach, which would leverage existing degrees by creating emphases or additions to those degrees that make them useful and attractive , while being able to move forward a little faster.

Student Conduct Code. Kris Winter, dean of students, and Katy Larkin, director of student conduct and community standards, walked the committee through a proposed resolution, which would modify language in the Student Conduct Code relating to notice requirements. This change was put into effect temporarily by President Schill in December 2018 and Board of Trustees approval is required for permanent enactment. They also provided an update to the committee on a change made to the student conduct code in June 2018. This change included in the Code references to certain criminal conduct findings. In June 2018, trustees asked for a report after the change's implementation to understand its usage and impact, particularly in light of concerns raised at the time that it would be overly-applied. Larkin discussed a few situations in which the clause was invoked, particularly around domestic violence situations.

ACTION: The committee considered the resolution on the change to the Conduct Code regarding notice. The resolution was moved by Paustian and seconded by McIntyre. The resolution was adopted by voice vote without dissent.

Diversity Equity and Inclusion. Vice President Yvette Alex-Assensoh and AVPs Victoria DeRose and Lesley-Anne Pittard provided the committee with an update on the UO's efforts around diversity, equity and inclusion. Alex-Assensoh discussed five key points of the equity and inclusion strategy for the division: embedding equity and inclusion in daily practices, aligning units around the shared IDEAL Framework, mobilizing people to do the work, evaluating progress and making necessary adjustments, and disseminating promising practices across and beyond campus. DeRose discussed the tactical work taking place within DEI and in units across campus. The group discussed some of the achievements of the current academic year, including search advocate training, embedding equity and inclusion in position descriptions, active recruitment as part of the institutional hiring plan and faculty hiring practices, and generally becoming a better strategic partner to units (as opposed to just an office that executes tactics). Trustees engaged in a discussion of efforts to support students once they matriculate to the UO. Pittard, who oversees the Center for Multicultural Academic Excellence as part of her portfolio, indicated that this includes several initiatives relating to high-touch, creative interventions and support services for students. Trustees asked questions about the assessment and measurement side of their work, expressing clear interest in ensuring there is a strong ability to measure and assess the work being done.

Ethnic Studies PhD. Professors Lynn Fujiwara and Laura Pulido presented a resolution to the Committee establishing a PhD (with a Masters in passing) of Ethnic Studies. They noted that the UO's Ethnic Studies program is the third largest Ethnic Studies major-granting institution; talked about the growth of Ethnic Studies as a field, including within K-12 education; and discussed the plan for timing of launching the program. Trustee McIntyre asked about what differentiates the UO's Ethnic Studies program from Berkeley and Colorado, two programs noted by the professors located in the west. Dr. Pulido explained that the UO's program is far more interdisciplinary in its approach, and also has a high focus on indigenous studies as part of its portfolio. Trustee Ballmer asked how budgets work with regard to new degree approvals and the establishment of new degrees. Provost Banavar and the professors discussed how graduate employee allocations work, which is the particular situation with the Ethnic Studies graduate degree.

ACTION: The resolution was moved by Ballmer and seconded by Paustian. The motion carried by voice vote without dissent.

Adjournment. The meeting was adjourned at 11:32 a.m.