

**Board of Trustees of the University of Oregon  
Academic and Student Affairs Committee  
Meeting Summary | December 7, 2017**

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**Committee Membership**

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

The Academic and Student Affairs Committee (ASAC) of the Board of Trustees of the University of Oregon (Board) met at the Ford Alumni Center on the UO’s Eugene campus on December 7, 2017. 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 9:04 a.m. A quorum was verified. The committee approved the minutes from the September 2017 meeting without amendment.

**Core Education.** Executive Vice Provost Scott Pratt, University Senate President Chris Sinclair, and Dean of the Lundquist College of Business Sarah Nutter provided an overview for trustees about the current state of core (i.e., general) education at the UO and efforts to thoroughly evaluate and redesign these requirements for students. Pratt began with an overview of the current structure and requirements, the basis of which was established in the 1970s and which has morphed over time with piecemeal solutions and offerings. Sinclair discussed where the Core Education Task Force is from a process standpoint and the other councils and committees on campus that need to participate in this review and discussion. Sinclair discussed some of the current thinking on shared experiences, how best to stage courses for students-particularly freshmen, and thematic approaches to managing core education. He then provided an overview current ideas under consideration for specific course changes or required fields of study. Pratt and Sinclair explained that the focus now is set of requirements for all undergraduates regardless of whether they seek a BS or BA, adding that there is an important element to core education specific to a students’ track toward either a BS or BA, but that a robust evaluation of those distinctions and requirements will occur at a future point. Nutter provided trustees with the perspective of a more “local” core education plan, where “local” means specific to a school or college. She explained the approach within the Lundquist College of Business to evaluate and understand benchmarking and best practices, market and employer perspectives, and alumni, faculty, and student perspectives. She explained that the school will look particularly at gaps that arise from the study, such as a focus on global perspectives or minors available to students who major in another field of study but need or want business skills. Additionally, she talked about the need to think about *how* students are taught, not just *what*. Trustees asked questions about expected timelines for completion of work, stressing the importance of this and their desire for urgency around its completion.

**Online and Hybrid Education.** Pratt was joined by Dean of Libraries Adriene Lim and Chief Information Officer Jessie Minton to talk with trustees about online and hybrid education at the UO. Pratt acknowledged that the UO is generally behind the times, having not focused much on these methods of delivery while the trends nationally changed dramatically. Minton provided an overview of the current state of online and hybrid education at the UO, including commitments by the president and provost to invest in much-needed infrastructure and management. Pratt also talked about the national market and its implications on the UO's ability to enter the market, noting that there are opportunities for the UO related to specific disciplines (i.e., sports product industry areas) and related to serving undergraduate students in a more flexible and efficient manner. Pratt articulated three primary goals for the UO's work in this space: (1) enhancing student success, (2) entering the market through unique, innovative, and sustainable programming, and (3) enhancing capacity at the UO, such as space or course sizes. Lim went through a handful of key issues the UO faces as it embarks on this initiative, including, but not limited to: ownership and accountability, urgency versus quality, faculty time for course development, benchmarking, and general infrastructure. Lim also talked about the collaborative nature of this initiative and the need to bring in many facets of the campus community—individual schools and colleges, libraries, information technology, academic leadership, various committees, etc. Pratt then walked trustees through the timeline for this initiative, focused on specific action items for the next two academic years (inclusive of AY18). Trustees engaged in questions with the panel on ability to redirect development costs if strategies change, how closely this effort is being worked on with the core education redesign initiative, whether it makes sense to partner with other institutions, and how to find our relative place in the market vis a vis bigger players. Trustees stressed urgency and the need to make progress on this very quickly.

**Data Science Initiative.** Professor of Biology Bill Cresko provided an overview for trustees of the new Presidential Initiative in Data Science, of which he is the director. Cresko noted that the initiative was borne out of a variety of efforts already underway on campus and the need to better integrate and leverage those functions. Cresko provided some background about the rapid change in data sciences in recent history and the wide reach of data analytics across fields. He also explained why growing data science at the UO is important: building new areas of research and education, growing interdisciplinary studies, facilitating the launch of the Knight Campus, strengthening connections with other institutions, building bridges with government and private sectors, and recruiting world class faculty and students whose work will rely heavily on data management and extraction. Cresko indicated that a primary goal for this academic year is the recruitment of new faculty, determining whether and what degrees or certifications are associated with the initiative, establishing an advisory committee, and launching the implementation plan. Trustees engaged with Cresko to discuss opportunities for core education, global data management opportunities, and the (positive) impact of this on recruiting faculty.

**Recess.** The committee chair recessed the meeting at 10:58 a.m. and reconvened it at 11:45 a.m.

**Financial Aid and Scholarships.** Jim Brooks, assistant vice president and director of financial aid, provided trustees with an annual overview of financial aid and scholarships provided to UO students. He noted that the institutional aid budget (that which is paid for by the institution, not via state or federal programs) is \$37.7 million for the current fiscal year. Programs funded by the institutional aid budget serve about 7,000 undergraduate students. Institutional aid is the largest form of direct aid, with federal and state coming in second and third, respectively. He noted that in FY17, institutional aid was higher than federal and state aid combined. Brooks noted a few policy points for trustee awareness, including additional money allocated by federal lawmakers for the Pell grant program so that they could receive support year-round (it historically did not cover summer term). Brooks also explained that the school is no longer able to award Federal Perkins Loans (a federal policy change), which will cost UO students approximately \$3

million per year in federal aid. Finally, Brooks shared with trustees some debt figures for the 2016 graduating class, including that 43.6% of students graduated with debt and the average debt of those students/borrowers is \$26,164.

**Adjournment.** The meeting was adjourned at 12:16 p.m.