**Board of Trustees of the University of Oregon**

**Meeting Summary | March 2, 2018**

**Membership**

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

The Board of Trustees of the University of Oregon (Board) met at the Ford Alumni Center on the UO’s Eugene campus on March 2, 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 8:35 a.m. Roll was taken and a quorum verified.The Board approved the minutes from its December 2017 meeting without amendment.

**Public Comment.** Following is a list of individuals who spoke and the general topic(s) of their remarks.

* *Bill Harbaugh – professor, senate vice president: spoke in opposition to the prosed reduction in the tuition differential for the Clark Honors College and about the university’s economic diversity*
* *Sally Bell – staff, Lundquist College of Business: spoke in favor of the LCB tuition differential proposal and about the competitive landscape for business students upon graduation*
* *Jessica Best – staff, Lundquist College of Business: spoke in favor of the LCB tuition differential proposal and about the benefits of strong staffing and services within the College*
* *T. Bettina Cornwell – professor: spoke in favor of the LCB tuition differential proposal in the context of Oregon State’s use of a differential tuition*
* *Ivan Chen – student and ASUO officer: spoke about his overall costs of education, including tuition, housing and food expenses; also spoke about the climate at Oregon for students from marginalized communities*
* *Heather Bottorff – staff, Lundquist College of Business: spoke in favor of the differential tuition proposal for LCB in the context of student advising and student services*
* *Josh Guerrero – community member, iron worker: spoke about safety issues and concerns with the subcontractor being used for iron work in the Bean Hall construction project*
* *Rio Lehman – student: spoke to the need to take the local community into account when choosing companies with whom the university conducts business; not contracting with Oregon Corrections Enterprises*
* *Eli Shipley – student: spoke against contracting with West Side Iron*
* *Jamie Cunningham – student: spoke to the UO’s mission and values statement as it relates to labor and contracting practices*
* *Andrew Park – alumni and director at the Columbia School of English: spoke about the importance of international recruitment and opening international recruitment to the Columbia School*
* *Michael Park – alumni and staff at the Columbia School of English: spoke about the importance of international recruitment and diversity of thought*
* *Bitty Roy – professor: expressed concerns over a conditional use permit filed by the university for partial development of the riverfront area, particularly about the area along the river north of the railroad tracks; also spoke to the importance of supporting underprivileged students*
* *Imani Dorsey – student and ASUO officer: asked board to vote no on the tuition proposal and the LCB tuition differential; raised concerns about student engagement in the TFAB process; requested that the differential tuition vote be split from the vote on tuition rates*
* *Maya Date – student: spoke against the tuition increase and spoke to the use of tuition increase funds*
* *Justice Lawrence – student: spoke about the impact of tuition increases on minority and underserved students*
* *Amy Schenk – student and ASUO president: provided trustees with a survey conducted by ASUO about the tuition increase and differential tuition*
* *Caroline Crisp – student: spoke against the tuition increase and against the general culture at the UO; spoke in favor of a tuition freeze*

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

* *University Senate President Chris Sinclair (note: this report was received at the start of the meeting due to Professor Sinclair’s teaching schedule)*
* *ASUO President Amy Schenk*
* *Provost and Senior Vice President Jayanth Banavar*
* *President Michael Schill*

**FY19 Tuition and Fees.** President Schill provided an overview of his recommended tuition and fee rates to the Board, which are articulated in detail in the board materials. He provided a brief recap of the process, and provided some comparative information regarding other Oregon schools. He reiterated the UO’s principle of reserving 10% of tuition for aid. He acknowledged the difficulty for some students to meet this increase, and also acknowledged that the proposal does not actually cover all of our anticipated needs for known costs and strategic plans and is based on key assumptions around enrollment growth.

Jamie Moffitt, vice president for finance and administration and CFO, then walked trustees through detailed information about the tuition and mandatory fee proposals, noting historical data, current budget (particularly E&G) information, comparative information with peer institutions, and state investment.

Moffitt spoke about anticipated FY2019 E&G fund cost drivers, which are estimated at $16.7 million for key line items. This includes $12.6 million in personnel (including GEs), $3.5 million in new investments (including $2.5 for new tenure-track faculty), and $600,000 in institutional expenses. This $16.7 million equates to a 3.18% increase year over year.

Moffitt then walked trustees through details of the proposed tuition and mandatory fee rates. This included: an increase of $6 (2.84%) per student credit hour (SCH) for resident undergraduates, an increase of $18 (2.49%) per SCH for non-resident undergraduates, various graduate school increases, and overall mandatory fee increases of 2.75% (0% for most fees, $7 (3.7%) for the health center fee, and $12.00 (5%) for the ASUO incidental fee).

Moffitt then explained a new rate structure proposed to align fees with services for off-campus (i.e., non-Eugene campus) students, including those in Portland, at OIMB in Charleston, and those taking other off-campus courses (e.g., field school).

[NOTE: Detailed tuition and fee percentage increases are included in the board packet as an exhibit to the proposed resolution.]

Moffitt recapped for trustees the discussions in TFAB about how best to address the issue of upcoming large PERS increases and how much tuition should, relatively, cover known or anticipated cost increases and investments. She also outlined the President’s proposal to decrease differential tuition in the Honors College from $4,194 per year to $2,700 per year, which represents a 35.6% reduction.

Sarah Nutter, dean of the Lundquist College of Business (LCB), provided an overview of the differential tuition request for courses taught in LCB. She provided information for trustees about other universities’ differential tuition rates. She articulated a desire to implement the differential to address issues of quality, competitiveness, and – importantly – services to students.

*A motion was made to separate the $20 per student credit hour differential tuition for the Lundquist College of Business and the reduction in the Clark Honors College differential tuition into a separate vote. Moved by Ann Curry and seconded by Connie Ballmer. Approved by a vote of 10-3 (nays: Bragdon, Ford, Gonyea).*

Trustees engaged in a question and answer period with Nutter and Moffitt. They discussed how LCB would assess the effectiveness of the investments made using the differential tuition, should the differential pass. There was much discussion on the ability of LCB to serve underrepresented and minority groups and the impact of the differential tuition increase on lower-income students, as well as the ability to use funds from the differential to recruit female faculty members and faculty of color.

Trustees also discussed market realities facing business schools, especially as it relates to faculty recruitment and costs, as well as the use of differential tuition to offset some of those costs unique to business schools. There was also discussion about whether the university should establish a framework of principles before considering future differential tuition proposals. President Schill indicated that he does not intend to entertain other differential proposals until such a framework is in place. Multiple trustees indicated support for such guidelines.

*A motion was made to (i) establish a differential tuition for LCB courses at the rate of $20 per SCH beginning in FY19 and (ii) decrease the Clark Honors College differential tuition, both in accordance with materials provided in the board’s materials, specifically Exhibits A and B. Moved by Andrew Colas and seconded by Joe Gonyea. Approved by vote of 11 to 2 (nays: Curry, Murray).*

Trustees discussed the concept of trying to “smooth” the impact on tuition of the anticipated biennial increases in PERS rates. Moffitt indicated that in their discussions, members of TFAB supported the concept of trying to “smooth” the PERS impact. Trustees discussed pros and cons of such “smoothing” as it relates to clarity on cost burdens, overall tuition increases and approval thresholds, and burdens on students. There was also discussion about the disappointment in the State of Oregon’s relative level of investment in higher education as a State, particularly given the burden of state-driven costs such as PERS.

*A motion was made to adopt FY19 tuition and fees as articulated in the resolution and related exhibits. Moved by Ross Kari and seconded by Peter Bragdon. It passed by a vote of 13-0.*

**Global Health.** Professor Josh Snodgrass, anthropology, and assistant professor Kristin Yarris, international affairs, provided trustees with an overview of their academic initiative relating to Global Health. The Global Health initiative report discussed the interdisciplinary nature of the work – ranging from biology and anthropology to international affairs and political science. Snodgrass and Yarris explained their approach to the Global Health program, which builds on collaboration, cross-discipline education, field experience, student-driven methods, and the UO’s liberal arts education. This initiative has resulted in a new minor, which was established based on student demand and requires six interdisciplinary courses in social sciences, natural sciences, and the humanities as well as an internship or field research/experience. This minor, in its first full year, has 46 students who have 11 different majors. Snodgrass and Yarris noted that students interested in Global Health studies have plans for such varied opportunities as: medical school, nursing or allied health professions, research or academic careers, international service, NGO and INGO work, prestigious award or fellowship opportunities (e.g., Fulbright), or volunteer work through the Peace Corps and Global Health Corps. Snodgrass and Yarris have a vision for a bigger program that will help attract top researchers; better connect with neuroscience, genomics, and the new data science initiative; provide opportunities for collaborative federal and private research; and create a west coast hub built on a liberal arts foundation. Trustees were interested in whether developing economies are of more interest or a greater pairing for this program. The professors noted that there are certainly advantages to solving problems within those economies, but that it is not singularly focused on such locations. They also discussed how faculty go about building such programs and working together toward success. Trustees congratulated Yarris and Snodgrass on their research, innovation and work for students.

**Adjournment.** The meeting adjourned at 1:01 p.m.