



Academic and Student Affairs Committee

Meeting Minutes, September 10, 2015

The Academic and Student Affairs Committee (ASAC) of the Board of Trustees of the University of Oregon (Board) met in the Ford Alumni Center on the UO Campus on September 10, 2015. Below is a summary of the committee discussions and actions.

Committee Membership

Connie Ballmer	X
Rudy Chapa	X
Ann Curry	X
Allyn Ford	X
Michael Schill	NP
Helena Schlegel	X
Mary Wilcox, Chair	X
Kurt Willcox	X

Opening. The meeting was called to order at 10:00 am by Committee Chair Mary Wilcox. Roll call was taken and a quorum verified. Chair Wilcox opened by welcoming Connie Ballmer to the committee and provided a brief overview of the agenda. The committee approved the minutes from the June 2015 committee meetings.

Public Comment. There were no requests to provide public comment.

Overview of Academic Organizational Structure. Chair Wilcox introduced the topic of academic structure and encouraged the committee to think about managerial responsibilities. Scott Coltrane, Senior Vice President and Provost opened the discussion with the importance of faculty peer review and which faculty members are expected to participate in peer review. He explained that tenure track faculty and research faculty are expected to evaluate the work (papers, panels, and awards) of other faculty members at their home institution, for other institutions, and for various professional organizations. After evaluation, the work reviewed can be sent for scholarly journals, academic publishers, and grant agencies. Trustee Ford asked about the criteria for review and whether there is push for change and excellence or does it encourage mediocrity. Coltrane further explained that peer review is essentially a process of quality control, and is designed to ensure that only original and outstanding academic contributions are recognized and awarded. He went on to discuss the importance of both tenure track (TTF) and non-tenure track (NTTF) faculty members and their roles within the university.

Coltrane explained that TTF members are primarily responsible for conducting research and teaching, mentoring, and training graduate students. TTF make up the majority of principal investigators on research grants and generate the bulk of research publication. Coltrane went on to discuss requirements for certification and acceptance into professional ranks (such as TTF), and the process/procedures different ranked faculty members go through to achieve such rankings. The university also depends on two types of NTTF faculty to fulfil mission of academic excellence, instructional NTTF (instructors and lecturers) and research NTTF (principal investigators on research grants). Additional NTTF faculty designations and their

roles in the faculty evaluation/ peer review process is further discussed, leading up to a discussion about the university's individual program review process.

Coltrane outlined that the peer review processes and procedures have shaped organizational structures in academic institutions, and the academic organization at the UO and how it compares to other universities. He emphasized that the UO's organizational authority has been relatively successful, and insofar has preserved the ability to maximize the advantages of peer review by assembling relevant faculty into appropriate units to review research projects and academic offerings.

Overview of Portland-based Academic Programs. Chair Wilcox introduced Jane Gordon, Interim Vice Provost for Portland Programs. Gordon provided an overview of the programs offered by each school and/or college in Portland, and discussed Portland's strategic plan to remain aligned with the main campus's goals and mission, even given tight budgets and new processes for program approval at state level. Gordon further discussed that by providing primarily professional master's programs, Portland remains an essential location for the institution because it allows for easy access to up-to-date industry expertise, mentoring, networking, and internship opportunities. She explained that in aligning itself with the UO's mission, Portland's location also provides services to the state (through workshops, lecture series, etc.), and elicits programs that enroll significant numbers of student who are mid-career professionals.

Gordon briefly summarized the programs/centers (both degree granting and non-degree granting) offered within the Portland location. She reported that currently there are 197 students who study in Portland and they expect that number will go up to 372 next year, thus support needs for students as the programs grow will become important. Chair Wilcox discussed the importance of the UO presence in Portland and the importance of collaborations with peer institutions. She also discussed the student experience and the importance of building a campus atmosphere in Portland.

Class Size and Classroom Utilization. Scott Coltrane opened the discussion by reporting that the UO is currently at capacity in terms of classroom utilization. He emphasized the need to evaluate and examine possible ways to more fully utilize existing classrooms, especially on Fridays and Saturdays. Trustee Ballmer raised questions about why scheduling was so light on Fridays and what the effect on faculty would be if classes were scheduled on Fridays and Saturdays. Coltrane explained that it would not be highly favorable among the faculty but something that should definitely be evaluated. Trustee Ford raised that resources should be maximized before seeking additional resources to build more facilities. Chair Wilcox requested that Coltrane provide the committee with an update on his findings on utilization around the June 2016 meeting.

Adjournment. The meeting was adjourned at 12:01 pm.