



The University of Oregon Board of Trustees, Academic and Student Affairs Committee met in the Ford Alumni Center on the UO campus on March 26, 2014. Below is a summary of committee reports, discussions, and actions.

The meeting was called to order by ASAC Chair Mary Wilcox. All members of the committee were present. Trustee Ann Curry participated by phone.

Key Topics for 2014-15

Provost Scott Coltrane presented key topics for 2014-15 to include: adoption of policies, delegation of authority for operations, mission statement and alignment as required by the Higher Education Coordinating Commission (HECC), metrics and achievement compacts, the UO Academic Plan, and strategic priorities. He talked about the emerging roles of the HECC and relationship with the Oregon University System (OUS) Provosts' Council, and introduced the organization of academics at the UO.

Overview of Academic Affairs

Senior Vice Provost, Doug Blandy delivered a presentation on Academic Affairs (AA). The Office of Academic Affairs upholds, provides leadership on, and carries out the academic mission of the University. In service to this mission, the office: promotes and sustains the highest standards in teaching, research and service; fosters and advocates for faculty; promotes a respectful work environment, equity and inclusion, and a family-friendly workplace; supports and coordinates matters that pertain to faculty and academics, including hiring, retention, promotion, and tenure processes; advances university outreach to the community, academic extension, and internationalization. Blandy described how the Office of Academic Affairs advances that mission by promoting faculty excellence, academic quality and academic leadership and outreach.

Board Chair Chuck Lillis asked about the number of UO academic programs and who decides when they are reviewed. Blandy responded that there is a 7-10 year rotation of program review involving an extensive process that includes input from outside sources. Lillis asked about the academic program budgets and what proportion they comprise of the overall operating budget. Vice Provost for Budget and Planning Brad Shelton indicated that those funds constitute around 50%.

Mission Statement and Mission Realignment

Coltrane discussed the information provided to the committee in the meeting packets. This included the Mission Alignment/Metrics document reviewed and approved by the Oregon State Board of Higher Education in June 2011, the Oregon University System (OUS) Achievement Compacts for 2013-14, and the UO Mission Statement.

Chair Wilcox stated that the committee should identify three things regarding the mission statement: What is the purpose of the statement? What will it be used for? Who will see it?

Board Vice Chair Ginevra Ralph asked if there was a conflict between the Association of American Universities (AAU) and the State regarding one or the other's expectations of an institution's core mission. There was discussion of the UO's role as the premier research institution in the state and its distinction from the other public universities in this regard. President Michael Gottfredson responded that he sees no conflict.

HECC will meet in early September to begin reviewing mission statements, so work needs to be completed prior to that. Wilcox said the committee should work on refining and streamlining the statement, noting that faculty involvement must also be a priority in the revision process. She asked that a draft mission statement be submitted to the committee for initial review in May.

HECC, Achievement Compacts, and Metrics

There was discussion of the need for the committee to have more information regarding the Oregon Education Investment Board (OEIB) and HECC's expectations for achievement compact revisions. The suggestion was made to have Chief Education Officer Nancy Golden attend the meeting in May or June to discuss plans and directions of the OEIB regarding achievement compacts. There was further discussion of the importance of the committee's need to be participatory and responsive to the OEIB at the early stages so that UO Board ideals are incorporated into the State's. Wilcox stated that this needs to be a priority. President Gottfredson emphasized the need to focus on metrics that are important to the UO and to which the institution holds itself accountable.

Coltrane presented AAU comparison metrics. Of particular interest to the committee was a "flower" graph from Academic Analytics, depicting faculty productivity by department, as compared to AAU. Wilcox asked if a graph could be provided at a future meeting depicting a comparison across academic programs.

Accreditation

Special Assistant to the President, Dave Hubin, provided an overview of the Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities (NWCCU). This organization is one of six regional accrediting agencies recognized by the U.S. Department of Education, and covers the states of Oregon, Washington, Idaho, Alaska, Montana, Utah and Nevada. The UO participates in a review process that involves a seven-year institutional self-study of mission, goals, operations, and achievements around core themes, a peer evaluation (site visit), commendation of accomplishments, and recommendations for improvement. The UO also submits annual reports as part of this process.

Campus Academic Planning

Coltrane spoke briefly about academic planning discussions that have been hosted by the Provost's Office to engage the campus community in conversation about the future of the University of Oregon and establishing priorities for future academic planning and investments. The campus engagement format worked well and will be used to involve the campus community in the mission statement revision process.

Schedule of future meetings

Wilcox discussed future committee meetings and set a goal for the committee to determine academic priorities and planning. She suggested more frequent meetings to set initial processes for the work of the group over the next year. Those meetings will be scheduled in May, June, and early September.