

**Board of Trustees of the University of Oregon
Meeting Summary | May 22-23, 2019**

MAY 22, 2019

The Board of Trustees of the University of Oregon (Board) met at the Jordan Schnitzer Museum of Art on the UO’s Eugene campus on May 22. The sole purpose of the meeting on May 22 was an executive session discussing collective bargaining as authorized under ORS 192.660(2)(d). Chair Lillis convened the meeting at 12:48 p.m. Trustees in attendance were: Aaron, Ford, Kari, Lillis, Paustian, Ralph, and Schill. No other topics were discussed. The meeting was adjourned at 1:46 p.m.

MAY 23, 2019

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

**Present via phone for the discussion and vote on the tuition resolution*

The Board of Trustees of the University of Oregon (Board) met at the Ford Alumni Center on the UO’s Eugene campus on May 23, 2019. 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 9:32 a.m. on Thursday, May 23, 2019. Roll was taken (recorded above) and a quorum verified. The Board approved the minutes from its March 2019 meeting without amendment.

Public Comment. Following is a list of individuals who spoke and the general topic(s) of their remarks. (Full remarks are available on the audio recording.) Pursuant to the Board’s public comment guidelines, priority was given to those comments related to items on the Board’s agenda. Those unable to provide comment at the meeting were encouraged to provide written comment to trustees.

- *Ugo Akabike (student) – Spoke in opposition to the proposed cut to the JSMA budget*
- *Chris Sinclair (faculty, UA president) – Spoke to financial management of the university, the role of the mission statement in making decisions, and donor-driven decision making/investments*
- *Bill Harbaugh (faculty, senate president) – Echoed Chris Sinclair’s message, comment*
- *Louie Vidmar (alum, employee, SEIU president) – Spoke in opposition to the university’s budget priorities and expenses, and against tuition increases*
- *Michael Magee (graduate student, GTFF president) – Spoke about the united opposition to current leadership and that leadership’s budget choices*
- *Michael Marchman (GTFF staff organizer) – Spoke about his work with graduate employees on campus and against budget decisions at the UO and the UO leadership’s approach to financial management and employees*

- *Riahnna Lingram (graduate student) – Spoke about the importance of teaching and undergraduate students to graduate employees, and against the proposed resident tuition increase; she also spoke about international GEs*
- *David Purucker (graduate student) – Spoke in opposition to the president’s leadership of the UO and his management decisions, and against budget cuts and tuition hikes*
- *Yomaira Tarula (undergraduate student) – Spoke against the tuition increase for resident undergraduate students*
- *Imani Dorsey (undergraduate student, ASUO vice president) – Spoke against the tuition increase for resident undergraduate students*
- *Charlie Keene (undergraduate student) – Spoke against the tuition increase for resident undergraduate students and the impact of tuition increases on marginalized student groups*
- *Ellen Kress (graduate student) – Spoke against the tuition increase for resident undergraduate students*
- *Patrick Schranck (undergraduate student) – Spoke against the tuition increase for resident undergraduate students, and particularly the impact on low-income students*
- *Max Drascher (graduate student) – Spoke about graduate employee health benefits and against cuts to health benefits in particular*
- *Amanda Sager (no UO affiliation) – Spoke against budget cuts to LERC*
- *Rita Ludwig (graduate student) - Spoke against budget priorities established by UO leadership and against the resident undergraduate tuition increase*
- *Teresa Caprioglio (graduate student) – Spoke against current budgeting and budgeting priorities and the tuition increase proposal*
- *Hannah Pell (graduate student) – Spoke against the planned cuts in the School of Music and Dance; spoke against the proposed tuition increase for undergraduate students*
- *Larissa Petrucci (graduate student) – Spoke against the proposed tuition increase, against the premise of restricted funds in the UO budget, and in favor of a new budget process*
- *Haley Laningham (graduate student) – Spoke against the leadership of the UO and the decisions being made regarding budget*
- *Alberto Lioy (graduate student, GTFF treasurer) – Spoke against proposed tuition increase and current budget decisions.*
- *Alexis Kiessling (graduate student) – Spoke against current budget decisions and the proposed tuition increase; echoed sentiments of prior speakers*
- *Mia Storm (graduate student) – Spoke in favor of services for people with disabilities and against the proposed tuition increase*
- *Jonny Saunders (graduate student) – Spoke against GTFF bargaining proposals by the UO and against high executive pay*
- *Montse Mendez (undergraduate student, incoming ASUO vice president) – Spoke about tuition affordability and other related student costs (e.g., books, living costs) and against the budget decisions by UO leadership and the budget process*
- *Doyle Canning (law alumna) – Spoke against the budget practices at the UO*
- *Ellen Scott (faculty) – Echoed the sentiments of prior speakers and spoke about the research and scholarship done in LERC*
- *Gordon Lafer (faculty) – Spoke against the proposed cuts to LERC; spoke against the proposed resident undergraduate tuition increase*
- *Sarah Pishioneri (student) – Spoke about the value of LERC; spoke against the proposed tuition increase*
- *Bob Bussel (director of LERC, faculty) – Spoke about LERC; spoke against the cuts to LERC and about the impacts those cuts would have*

- *Amanda Sager (repeat speaker) (no UO affiliation) – Spoke about the connection between her organization (Oregon Shakespeare Festival) and the University of Oregon*
- *Sarah Laslett – Spoke about the benefits of LERC to the UO and the possible impacts of cuts to LERC on the UO*
- *Maram Epstein (faculty) – Spoke about the priorities within the institution and those things which should be supported through budgeting and management*
- *Dana Cohen Lissman (graduate student) – Spoke about the importance of international students*
- *Deb Mailander (UO employee) – Spoke about the work of LERC*
- *Kurt Willcox (retired UO employee) – Spoke in opposition to the current approach to budgeting and consistent tuition increases*

ASUO Reports. The Board received standing reports from ASUO President Maria Gallegos-Chacon and the following individuals. The full report is available in the audio recording.

Resident Undergraduate Tuition. Chair Lillis thanked those who participated in public comment, noting his appreciation for their professionalism and patience. He also thanked the TFAB for its work on the tuition-setting process. President Schill provided opening remarks regarding tuition and explained his recommendation to the trustees, which was developed after receiving the TFAB recommendation, holding a tuition forum, receiving input from an online survey, and consulting with various community stakeholders. He explained his proposal, which provides a tuition rate increase schedule with the increase indexed to the level of support received from the state. He also articulated his intention to, should the tuition rate need to rise by more than 5%, set aside up to \$350,000 in grant money for low-income Oregonians not covered by PathwayOregon.

Vice President for Finance and Administration and CFO Jamie Moffitt and Vice President for Student Life Kevin Marbury presented trustees with an overview of the TFAB process, financial information used in the tuition-setting analysis, and ultimately the proposed resolution regarding resident undergraduate tuition. Detailed slides are available in the meeting packet (supplemental pages). They explained the various sources of tuition revenue for the current fiscal year, noting the relative shares of nonresidents, residents, summer tuition, graduate tuition, continuing education, and other small sources. Moffitt recapped information such as the E&G fund's recent history, recent cost-cutting and strategic savings measures, cost increases, and comparator peer institutions. They also spoke at length about state funding challenges and the unfortunate nature of the timing of passage of the state budget relative to the need to finalize tuition.

Trustees engaged in a discussion about various questions and topics, such as:

- The need to engage in greater education around restricted funds and how they are raised and used, and the ease with which the institution can guide donor funds;
- The timing of a final setting of tuition vis a vis the admission department's need to finalize tuition rates for incoming students and package related financial aid;
- The proposed set aside by President Schill and how that would be applied;
- The unsustainable nature of continued tuition increases;
- How do we think about PERS and possible cost containment measures related to PERS and the possible benefits of those for future years; and,
- The painful nature of making these decisions.

ACTION: The resolution to approve resident undergraduate tuition for FY20 was moved by Trustee Kari and seconded by Ford. It was approved by a vote of 11-1.

The meeting recessed and reconvened at 1:43 p.m.

Thank You Items. President Schill took a few minutes to recognize and thank Jayanth Banavar who is stepping down as provost and senior vice president this summer. The Board also provided words of thanks to Trustee Paustian, who will graduate in June.

A Look at PERS. Given the ongoing pressure on the UO's budget due to contribution increases to the Public Employees Retirement System (PERS), the Board asked for more information on the history and mechanics of PERS. Tim Nesbitt, interim director of PERS Solutions, and John Tapogna, president of ECONorthwest, provided trustees with a detailed look at the PERS financial pictures. Tapogna began with a history of PERS, including major milestones in legislative changes to the system and the creation of new tiers of employees. He focused on the components of PERS retirement structures and provided data relative to the overcompensation of retirees through PERS vis a vis the stated retirement compensation goal. Nesbitt provided more information on the solutions and various options for cost saving reforms, including: employee cost sharing, modification of future benefit accruals, rebalancing the system to focus on pension or retirement savings (not both), and recovering legacy costs from re-employed retirees. Trustees engaged in a discussion with the presenters about current policy options that would help mitigate some of the direct impacts to employers as well as court decisions that could impact legislative proposals.

Academic Area in Focus: ShakeAlert, ALERTWildfire, and the Emerging Internet of (Wild) Things. Professor Doug Toomey walked trustees through a few initiatives in which he is engaged: ShakeAlert!, ALERTWildfire, and the Emerging Internet of (Wild) Things. Toomey noted that specific, on the ground projects related to sensors, data transfer, and data collection regarding natural events (e.g., wildfire or earthquakes) can have dramatic impact on both scientific research and societal impact. These innovations share the underlying goal of creating a more resilient society, particularly in the Pacific Northwest. He discussed the interplay between scientific discovery, applied science, public policy, public-private partnerships, and societal resilience and response. Toomey also spoke to the interdisciplinary nature of this work and the wide variety of public and private stakeholders in the region who support the UO's efforts. ShakeAlert, for example, uses technology to provide a slight (i.e., seconds-long) warning to individuals before a massive quake—a warning long enough to prevent catastrophic damage and loss of life and property. The system requires tremendous scientific understanding of the earth, but also modern technology and communications tools. The UO, Cal Tech, Cal Berkeley, and the University of Washington are partners with the USGS and private foundations to help link the science, the technology, and society. ALERTWildfire is similar. Trustees engaged in discussion with Toomey about the role of universities, how these public-private partnerships work and can be leveraged, and what the UO can do to better support innovative and external-facing faculty research.

Seconded Motions from Committee. Trustee Ross Kari provided an overview of the seconded motion before the Board from the Finance and Facilities Committee.

ACTION: The seconded motion from the Finance and Facilities Committee to authorize preliminary expenses for the Housing Transformation Project was approved by voice vote without dissent.

ACTION: The seconded motion from the Finance and Facilities Committee to temporarily approve FY20 capital and operating expenditure authorizations was approved by voice vote without dissent.

Student Conduct Code. Kevin Marbury, vice president for student life, introduced a resolution before the board on behalf of the Dean of Students (DOS) and the Student Conduct Committee. The Committee and DOS recommend some amendments to the Code and believe they should be in effect prior to the next academic year (which begins in August 2019 for the Law program). There are seven proposed changes, each which came forward with unanimous support from the committee. One primary goal of the changes is to improve clarity; another is to improve language related to student rights. Marbury reported that the DOS and Committee will begin work this summer on an overhaul of the code to try and make it less like an old Oregon Administrative Rule and make it something more accessible for students.

ACTION: The resolution was moved by Trustee Ford and seconded by Trustee Paustian; it was approved by voice vote without dissent.

Adjournment. The meeting adjourned at 3:54 p.m.