Attendance.

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

The Board of Trustees of the University of Oregon (Board) met at LCB’s Portland Location (Naito Building) on September 6, 2019. Below is a summary of Board reports, discussions and actions. An audio recording is maintained on file.

Convening and Approval of Minutes. Vice Chair Ginevra Ralph called the meeting to order at 10:30 a.m. on September 6, 2019. A quorum was verified. The Board approved the minutes from its May 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.

- David Igl (alumnus) – Spoke in opposition to removing Frederick Dunn’s name from a residence hall on campus and against the scholarship completed as part of the renaming process.
- Joe Tyndall (community member) – Spoke against “social justice propaganda” on the UO campus, including in class.

ASUO and Senate Reports. The Board received standing reports from ASUO President Sabinna Pierre and University Senate President Elizabeth Skowron. The full reports are available in the audio recording.

President’s Report. President Michael Schill provided trustees with a quarterly report highlighting key challenges and opportunities the university faces in the coming academic year. He began by discussing his optimism for a productive working relationship with Patrick Phillips, the new provost and senior vice president. Schill noted initiatives such as student success and increased graduation rates, creating an interdisciplinary environmental initiative, forging a strong relationship with the State of Oregon, and continuing the emphasis on hiring exceptional faculty members who will excel in both teaching and research. He then discussed several transformative capital projects recently completed or nearing completion, using the construction as a lead to discussing all of the physical and programmatic progress being made in various parts of campus: the Knight Campus for Accelerating Scientific Impact’s building north of Franklin and the related sky bridge to link science buildings; Tykeson Hall, which is now occupied and stands ready to welcome students as they come to campus in the next few weeks; housing projects such as the completed Bean Hall renovation (for which students express great enthusiasm and excitement!) and the upcoming projects; the Black Cultural Center, which will open this fall; the expanded health and counseling facility which will provide much needed space for growing student needs; and Hayward Field, which will be a landmark facility celebrating the university’s storied history in the sport of Track and Field. Schill also spoke about the importance of campus culture, particularly the need to root debate and discussion on campus in truth and fact rather than conjecture and animosity. He discussed
the hard conversations facing the university with regard to negotiations with labor groups on campus, particularly in light of the university’s salaries and funding as compared to peer institutions. Schill expressed concern that the tone and tenor of the past, and particularly in the last meeting of the Board, could lead to further animosity, a breakdown in collegiality, and a loss of our shared mission. He noted that universities are, above all, communities and—even with disagreement and respectful debate—should act as such.

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

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

Trustees took a moment before voting on the Black Cultural Center naming to recognize the respectful nature of the conversations surrounding the Black Student Task Force’s request for a cultural center, and to express gratitude to those students and to Trustee Andrew Colas for raising awareness about issues facing black students on campus.

ACTION: The seconded motion from the Finance and Facilities Committee to approve the naming of the Black Cultural Center after Lyllye Reynolds-Parker was approved by voice vote without dissent.

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

ACTION: The seconded motion from the Finance and Facilities Committee to authorize an acoustics research laboratory capital project was approved by voice vote without dissent.

Knight Campus Report. Bob Guldberg, vice president and executive director of the Knight Campus for Accelerating Scientific Impact (KCASI), provided the semi-annual report on the KCASI’s progress and launch. He grounded his presentation in the Knight Campus vision statement, and then walked trustees through the key accomplishments in the 2018-2019 academic year (AY19). These included but were not limited to the development of a strategic plan (included in board materials), the hire of four tenure-eligible faculty, the establishment of a faculty fellows group and a faculty affiliates program, the announcement of a joint Center for Biomedical Data Science with OHSU, initiation of the Knight Campus Undergraduate scholars Program, integration of the successful graduate internships program into KCASI (now known as the Knight Campus Internship Program), and making progress on the construction project which remains on budget and on time for a June 2020 move-in. Guldberg spoke about the Knight Campus’s research focus areas, including bioengineering, biological applications, precision medicine, biological systems, and synthetic biology/molecular engineering. He updated trustees on the four faculty hires completed this year and provided more detail on the participants in the fellows and affiliates programs. Guldberg discussed the internship program in more detail, noting that the incoming year is the largest year of the program and discussing the viability of scaling the program relative to staffing and faculty bandwidth. Guldberg then discussed with trustees the development of academic programs, including a new undergraduate program in bioengineering which is just beginning to work its way through the approval process. He provided a look at the academic and research goals for the 2019-2020 academic year (AY20), including opening the building as fully operational, hiring and having on board as many as seven new faculty, establishing a post-doctoral program to increase diversity in applied sciences, launching the UO-OHSU Biomedical Engineering Graduate Program and the UO-OSU Bioengineering Graduate Program, and
piloting a venture capital seed funding program. Trustees engaged in Q&A and discussion on a variety of topics including: Portland-based events and opportunities, gratitude for Gulberg’s experience and work, the volumes spoken by the four-for-four offer/acceptance rate of tenure-related faculty at this nascent stage, the shared vision by other state institutions regarding the areas of focus within the Knight Campus relative to state support and engagement, how best to use trustees to help highlight the work of the Knight Campus, the role of the Knight Campus vis a vis student success.

**Executive Session regarding Bargaining.** Trustees went into executive session as authorized under ORS 192.660 for purposes of discussing collective bargaining currently underway with the GTFF and SEIU Local 503. Bargaining status and direction were discussed with university personnel.

**Adjournment.** Immediately upon the conclusion of the executive session, Vice Chair Ralph adjourned the meeting at 1:34 PM.