

**Board of Trustees of the University of Oregon
Meeting Summary | December 8, 2017**

Membership

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

The Board of Trustees of the University of Oregon (Board) met at the Ford Alumni Center on the UO's Eugene campus on December 8, 2017. 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 8:05 a.m. Roll was taken and a quorum verified. The Board approved the minutes from its September and October 2017 meetings without amendment.

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

- *David Igl – alumnus: spoke about the removal of Frederick Dunn's name from Dunn Hall and the error of this decision*
- *Joe Tyndall – community member: spoke about social justice and the misled use of diversity and inclusion in establishing excellence*
- *Bill Harbaugh – professor, senate vice president: spoke about the student conduct code process and discipline with regard to the students who disrupted the October 6 State of the University event*
- *Kurt Willcox – staff: spoke about enrollment and possible future growth at the university, specifically concerns about increasing Oregon students and financial stability*
- *David Pulaski – undergraduate student: spoke about his positive academic experience as a transfer honors student*
- *Darius Stenstedt – undergraduate student: spoke about his optimism for the UO and his good experiences at the UO*

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

- *University Senate President Chris Sinclair*
- *Provost and Senior Vice President Jayanth Banavar*
- *President Michael Schill*
- *ASUO President Amy Schenk (note: Schenk's report occurred later in the meeting due to a scheduling conflict; it can be found in the audio recording after the discussion regarding the PERS UAL Task Force.)*

Seconded Motions from Committee. The board considered two resolutions forward as seconded motions from the Finance and Facilities Committee. Trustee Ross Kari provided an overview of each resolution. The first was a multi-sport apparel agreement between the UO and Nike. The second was an increase to the previously-approved budget for the construction of Tykeson Hall. The increase is \$11 million due to both tighter market conditions (\$2.8 million) and the addition of a basement floor to the building scope (remainder).

ACTION: The resolution to authorize the new multi-sport apparel agreement carried by voice vote without dissent.

ACTION: The resolution to increase the Tykeson Hall budget carried by voice vote without dissent.

Tuition-Setting Process and Overview. Jamie Moffitt, vice president for finance and administration and CFO, and Brad Shelton, executive vice provost for academic operations, provided trustees with an overview of the tuition-setting process for FY19 tuition levels. They discussed the Tuition and Fee Advisory Board (TFAB) membership and role, the general schedule for establishing a recommendation, and the use of public forums for additional student participation. They noted that meetings of TFAB are open to the public and media, and that all materials are available online. Moffitt then provided trustees an overview of anticipated major cost drivers likely to take effect in FY19, including compensation and benefit increases and strategic investments for additional tenure-track faculty. Moffitt also raised a few philosophical points of discussion relating to tuition, such as (1) how much to count on enrollment growth, and (2) whether to consider smoothing increases over multiple years rather than having larger jumps every other year due to anticipated PERS increases. Trustees reiterated their interest in an open and inclusive process.

PERS Unfunded Actuarial Liability (UAL) Task Force – Higher Education Recommendations. Nik Blosser, chief of staff to Governor Kate Brown, joined the board meeting to discuss PERS and, specifically, the Governor’s PERS task force which was charged with generating options to minimize the unfunded actuarial liability. Moffitt provided a brief overview of the coordination between universities and the governor’s office in analyzing task force recommendations. Blosser walked through a few of the task force’s recommendations that had the potential to impact the universities. He noted that there are no easy solutions and that the hope of the office would be to find solutions that don’t negatively impact the university(ies) and have positive impacts to the state’s UAL issue overall. Trustees focused some questions on the recommendations relating to redirection of cash and short term investments held by the university, and noted that a paramount concern for the board would be any negative financial impact to the university that could end up increasing student tuition rates.

Knight Campus for Accelerating Scientific Impact. Patrick Phillips, professor of biology and acting director of the Knight Campus, provided a short update on progress to date, noting that his first update was just one year ago. His update included property acquisition, key staff, building project design and planning, and the hiring of a permanent director. Phillips also relayed that the masters level graduate internship program at the UO has moved into the Knight Campus, which, among other benefits, builds a broader network of faculty across campus directly related to the Knight Campus. He also discussed efforts in the last year to enhance the UO’s relationship with OHSU, noting that there is now a coordinating committee between the two institutions and a new grant program for collaborative work that will launch in January. Phillips updated trustees on some of the outward facing initiatives also, including Science Knight Out,

partnerships with local government, and community events around the building design review. Phillips updated trustees on the internal governance structures established to help manage the Knight Campus as an academic unit, including relevant internal policies and an internal faculty advisory board. Finally, Phillips noted that Dr. Bob Guldberg, who will assume the position as director of the Knight Campus in September 2018, is interested in beginning a strategic planning process during this interim phrase prior to his arrival.

Environmental Humanities. The board invited Professors Stephanie LeMenager (English) and Marsha Weisiger (History) to present on an interdisciplinary collaboration known as the “Environmental Humanities.” The goal of the field is to be an applied version of humanities that focuses on collaboration between disciplines, bringing diverse skills to the table to look at why humans make certain decisions and act in certain ways that have environmental impacts. They noted that disciplines involved in the work of the Environmental Humanities stretch from engineering and biology, to history and English; and from anthropology and architecture, to philosophy and art. LeMenager and Weisiger discussed the core theme of public lands and the work underway related to this initiative, including field research conducted this year in the Malheur National Wildlife Refuge. They also discussed the next steps for their current work, including grant applications, endowment solicitations, and additional field work. The hope is a culmination of work leading to two products: a co-authored book about the history of Oregon’s public lands and an interactive living map of Oregon’s public lands. Trustees engaged in discussion with the professors about the urban-rural divide in Oregon and how it goes beyond environmental issues and well into cultural issues.

Research and Innovation. Vice President for Research and Innovation David Conover provided trustees with an annual report about the status of research funding streams, expense areas, and key priorities. Conover reported that the UO has 560 active awards, with \$115 million in new awards last academic year. The majority of these awards were federal (\$94 million or 81%), with the state, industry, foundation, and other sources accounting for the balance. Federal sources were primarily the National Institutes of Health (\$34 million), the Department of Education (\$22 million) and the National Science Foundation (\$22 million). Largest awards for FY17 were received by the Institute of Neuroscience (\$13.6 million), the Institute of Molecular Biology (\$9.4 million), the Prevention Science Institute (\$7.1 million), and the Materials Science Institute (\$6.1 million). Conover also highlighted some of the individual faculty who received large awards in FY17 both in the sciences, and in the humanities, social sciences, law, and business, which are smaller dollar amounts but relatively still very impressive given the cost of conducting research. Conover discussed the progress made in investments and infrastructure to support research activity in the last three years. Conover also noted that the Office of the VPRI is launching a strategic plan focused on operational improvements to better support faculty at all stages of research, from grant applications through publication. Conover reported that Congressional budget proposals sustain NSF and DOE research funding, and include slight increases in NIH funding. Those bills are yet to be passed. Finally, Conover discussed his office’s focused efforts on telling the UO research story through proactive communication around faculty and student work, scientific discoveries, and overall science communication. Part of this will be a collaboration with the School of Journalism and Communication, which is launching a science communication program.

Academic Excellence. Provost Jayanth Banavar gave introductory remarks about the importance of defining excellence and establishing metrics that allow the UO to plan for the future, understand impact, provide accountability, allocate resources, and establish and communicate values. Scott Pratt, executive vice provost for academic affairs, and Brad Shelton, executive vice provost for academic operations, then provided an overview of the UO’s current approach to measuring excellence via operational and academic

metrics. Specifically, Shelton discussed operational metrics which had not been collected prior, including data that evaluate teaching workload, costs per student credit hour, class sizes, staffing levels, and degree productivity. Pratt discussed mission-oriented metrics which focus on undergraduate education, graduate education, and research. Pratt and Shelton discussed challenges with gathering, reporting, and comparing data sets. Shelton said that operational metrics are being released to deans next week, certain graduate education metrics are already being used, and plans to develop and begin using others are underway. Trustees asked questions about urgency as well as how the Provost's office will go about prioritizing various metrics in light of budget and other issues. Pratt and Shelton noted that the identification and use of metrics is complicated. Chair Lillis closed by saying that the most important role of the board is to ensure the academic quality of the institution, and that while the trustees do not necessarily possess the capability to assess individual programs, they do have the capability and obligation to hold the provost and administration responsible for the quality and improvement of our academic programs. He noted that this may be through external reviews, it may be dashboards from the provost, or it may be another tool, regardless it is imperative that they have the required information. Provost Banavar said that he heard the question and assured the board there will be urgency in reporting back to them.

Adjournment. The meeting adjourned at 1:49 p.m.