

December 9, 2019

**Committee Membership**

Elisa Hornecker	Present	Michael Schill	Present
Connie Ballmer	Present	Mary Wilcox, Chair	Present
Allyn Ford	Present	Katharine Wishnia	Present
Laura Lee McIntyre	Present		

The Academic and Student Affairs Committee (ASAC) of the Board of Trustees of the University of Oregon (Board) met in the Giustina Ballroom of the Ford Alumni Center on the Eugene Campus on December 9, 2019. Below is a summary of committee discussions and actions. An audio recording is maintained on file.

**Convening and Approval of Minutes.** ASAC Chair Mary Wilcox called the meeting to order at 9:01 AM. Roll was taken and a quorum verified. The committee approved the minutes from the September 2019 meeting without amendment.

**Provost's Report.** Patrick Phillips, provost and senior vice president provided his quarterly report to the committee. He began by talking about faculty engagement and meetings he is undertaking with faculty to talk about priorities. Phillips provided an update on searches for the new dean of the College of Design, the new vice provost and university librarian, and a new vice president for research and innovation, the latter following David Conover's retirement announcement last month. He also introduced Janet Woodruff-Borden, the new executive vice provost for academic affairs, and then discussed the interim deanship for the Graduate School and the search for a new dean for that unit. Phillips also discussed the work of the provost's office relative to key priorities established by the university, including student success. He highlighted recent (FY2019) four-year graduation rates, which reached an all-time high for the UO. He emphasized that this is the highest rate in Oregon and, based on current available data, looks to place Oregon in the top 20 of public universities nationally. He also spoke about a few academic initiatives, on which he will update trustees more thoroughly in future meetings. These included: bioengineering degree offerings, joint programs with OHSU and OSU, innovation and entrepreneurship, and an institutional approach to environmentally-related programming. Phillips also talked a little about the progress being made in establishing specific metrics for student success, indicating that Doneka Scott, vice provost for Undergraduate Education and Student Success, will present at the March meeting regarding these efforts.

**UO Online.** Carol Gering, associate vice provost for UO Online, provided an overview of where the UO's online and hybrid education program is in planning and implementation. She talked about the development opportunities for both undergraduate and graduate programs. She emphasized that a key priority right now is gathering and assessing data about current usage and demand, and she described the services put in place over the last calendar year to help provide better infrastructure and support for online courses. Examples of these include 20x7 tech support, one-stop chat/call center, instructional design support, centralized exam proctoring, and improved support for media and video development. Gering also provided trustees with an update for the UO Online budget, including a self-sustaining financial model based on class fees and online graduate program fees (i.e., a portion of graduate program tuition). Gering briefly discussed programmatic highlights and then discussed next steps for year two of her work at the institution. This work will include, but is not limited to, analyzing data, prioritizing course revisions, strengthening faculty support, and refreshing the video studio for production use. Trustees engaged in questions and answers relating to course development and prioritization, tuition rates and market analyses, whether to offer full degrees or continuing education/certificate work, how best to get

academic departments to recommend proposed programs, and how best to educate and train the faculty to effectively deploy this resource.

**New Degree Proposals.** The committee heard about three new undergraduate degree proposals.

**Neuroscience.** The first, an undergraduate degree in Neuroscience, was presented by CAS Divisional Dean Hal Sadofsky and Psychology Senior Instructor Nicole Dudukovic. This degree is designed to serve existing students and attract new students. It will be a partnership between Psychology, Human Physiology, and Biology. Trustees engaged in discussion with Sadofsky and Dudukovic regarding demand, course requirements, and the interdisciplinary nature of this program and other UO programs. This degree proposal has received all requisite university approvals and came before the committee for its approval and authorization to advance to the Higher Education Coordinating Commission and the regional accrediting body. They hope to have it launched in fall 2020.

*The resolution to approve the new Bachelor's Degree in Neuroscience was moved by Wilcox. It passed by a vote of 7-0.*

**Data Science.** Bill Cresko, professor of biology and executive director of the UO's Data Science Initiative, and Joe Sventek, department head in Computer and Information Science and deputy director of the initiative, presented on the proposed undergraduate degree in Data Science. The degree seeks to provide a central place for students interested in data analytics work that would be enhanced by domain-specific emphases. Trustees engaged in discussion with the professors regarding topics such as graduate program demand, discipline-specific preparation and training, demand, institutional partners, and workplace preparation. Cresko noted that this program proposal is before the University Senate on Wednesday, December 11, and they hope to have it launched in fall 2020. This degree program was not before the committee today for approval as it has not received all of the requisite university committee and university senate approvals. Chair Wilcox noted that trustees would be updated on any significant changes to the proposals stemming from those processes before being asked for final authorization.

**Bioengineering.** Mike Hahn, professor of human physiology, Jim Hutchison, professor of chemistry, and Nathan Jacobs, an instructor and curriculum director in the Knight Campus, presented on a proposed undergraduate degree program in bioengineering. Hahn noted that this undergraduate degree compliments the graduate degrees in development in partnership with OSU and OHSU, and it plays into UO's strengths and efforts to grow a culture of impact an innovation. He spoke to a few of the advantages and opportunities, as well as challenges, before the faculty developing this program. The former includes such opportunities as the Knight Campus and existing strengths in biology, chemistry, human physiology and business/innovation; the latter includes challenges such as the lack of an existing engineering infrastructure and the rapid timeframe. Trustees engaged in discussion with the faculty members about topics such as graduate programs, partnerships with OSU, market demand, and timing for faculty hiring and approval. As with Data Science, this program was not before the committee for action at this point and the trustees would be updated on any significant changes between this presentation and any request for approval.

**Enrollment and Financial Aid.** Jim Brooks, associate vice president and director of financial aid, provided an annual report to trustees on institutional aid provided to students. He noted that the UO processes about \$190 million in federal student aid and then provides an additional \$40 million in institutional aid and \$33 million in state or federal aid to students. He provided a breakdown of institutional aid into high

level categories such as merit-based scholarships, need-based scholarships, graduation and international remissions, and other institutional programs. He also talked about a few policy issues that are timely on the national stage right now, including the reauthorization of the federal Higher Education Act and foreign gift reporting. Roger Thompson, vice president for student services and enrollment management, then provided an overview of the student population after fall 2019 enrollments. His data compared fall 2019 with data from the prior five years and looked at topics such as freshmen statistics (size, GPA, domestic minority percentages, first generation), total enrollment, Oregon geographic representation, racial and ethnic diversity, and PathwayOregon participation. Thompson also spoke about some national trends and related concerns, including costs in western state comparators and enrollment predictability. Additionally, he spoke about some recruitment changes meant to help reach UO's growth goals and combat national concerns, such as new regional recruiters and marketing strategies. Thompson, Brooks and the trustees discussed a number of issues, including: national geography for domestic non-resident students, the overall mix of residents to non-resident students, international recruiting opportunities, the value of new degrees and academic programming relative to student recruitment, federal trends, state-mandated programs, the source of funds for institutional aid, national market pressures, and philanthropic efforts for additional aid.

**University of Oregon Alumni Association.** Raphe Beck, executive director of the University of Oregon Alumni Association, provided an overview of the UOAA to trustees and talked about the department's organizational structure, newly-revised vision and mission statements, and board of directors. Beck explained the nature of the UOAA's structure relative to University Advancement. As a 501(c)(3) organization, the UOAA reports to – but is somewhat separate from – the UO itself. It has service agreements with the UO's Advancement division and the UO Foundation to help with operational and transactional matters. He also described the membership-based model of the UOAA. Beck walked trustees through the UOAA's "Model for Progressive Engagement," which is designed to strengthen the association and help it meet its mission at various levels of alumni engagement.

**Adjournment.** The meeting was adjourned at 11:56 AM.