



EASTERN OREGON
UNIVERSITY

Board of Trustees

Minutes of a Special Meeting of the Board of Trustees

October 22, 2015

9:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Dixie Lund Boardroom, Inlow Hall

Eastern Oregon University

La Grande, Oregon

MINUTES

Trustees Present: Ray Brown, Richard Chaves (9:21 a.m.), Bobbie Conner (9:15 a.m.), Patricia Hinton, Tom Insko (Ex-Officio), Bill Johnson, Dixie Lund, Cheryl Martin, Abel Mendoza, David Nelson, Elsie Praeger-Goller, Jer Pratton, and nominee Brad Stephens.

University Staff Present: Chris Burford, Heather Cashell, Lara Moore, Xavier Romano, Dan Mielke, Tim Seydel, Sarah Witte, and Heidi Tilicki.

Guests: Hayley Weedn

Media: Cherise Kaechele

1. Call to Order/Roll and Announcements General announcements were given by Secretary Chris Burford.

2. Consent Agenda

Secretary Burford asked if there were any consent items that needed to be moved to action items.

Trustee Pratton moved to pass the consent agenda. Trustee Lund asked if sympathy could be included in the note card policy but not move it to an action item. She also requested to give minor, housekeeping and grammatical changes from the minutes to the Board Secretary's Assistant, thus not moving the minutes to action items. Trustee George Mendoza requested that the Proposal for New

Academic Program be moved as an action item so the board could hear a presentation on it from Dean Dan Mielke. Trustee Pratton amended his motion to reflect the above requests with a second from Trustee Abel Mendoza. The motion carried.

3. Comment Section:

a. President's Update: President Insko began his update by thanking Secretary Burford and Heidi Tilicki for their diligent work on keeping the board informed. Since the tragedy at Umpqua Community College, EOU has streamlined their communication process more and is creating new emergency communication outlets which will be tested in a few weeks. EOU has been approved for funding for the demolition of Hunt Hall. The demolition will happen over the next couple of years. EOU received \$300,000 to potentially begin a men's and women's wrestling team, but EOU will have to decide where to put them and where to get the remaining funds to support the program. Regardless, EOU has received a lot of community support for wrestling.

Earlier that month, President Insko testified before the Innovation and Workforce Development House Interim Committee on Higher Education at the legislature in Salem. This is an opportunity for EOU to get their face in front of this committee. President Insko's term on the Board of Forestry will expire in February. It is an influential board yet he needs to make a decision whether to serve another 4 years.

Trustee Bobbie Conner entered at 9:15 a.m.

Since the start of his position, President Insko has traveled to various communities across Eastern Oregon to listen to and understand what EOU's presence is in the region. Chair Nelson asked if the board members have any comments.

Trustee Richard Chaves entered at 9:21 a.m.

b. Board Member Comments: Trustee Jer Pratton began by noting that the Governance Committee is drafting the presidential assessment. Thoughts and feedback are welcome to those committee members. Trustee Abel Mendoza said it might be beneficial to have a clear outline of what the responsibilities of the president are. Chair Nelson asked when the accreditation process will be for EOU. Secretary Burford answered that it is ongoing. Trustee Abel Mendoza said the best person to speak on that separate evaluation process would be Interim Provost Sarah Witte.

Trustee George Mendoza noted some observations from homecoming. It was great to see so many board members attend. He thought the presentation and the events were well planned. Trustee Richard Chaves noted that it was a great event and the board should participate in more events like this.

Trustee Holly Kerfoot asked if this board will have committee updates at the board meetings. President Insko noted that future board meetings will include reports, and committees will not meet on the same day. Secretary Burford noted that having committees meetings in the morning would present a few challenges. Any action items would be rushed and board members would not have time to review them prior to the meeting. It would prove to be a long day for the board members.

Trustee Jer Pratton welcomed Dr. Brad Stevens as a candidate for the vacant board position to today's meeting.

c. Public Comment: Mike Allstott spoke on behalf of the EOU Alumni Foundation. He thanked the board for hiring Tom Insko as president. He gave an overview of what the EOU Alumni Foundation does for the local community and EOU such as offer scholarship to students and asked the board members to donate and support the foundation.

4. Oregon Government Ethic Commission: Hayley Weedn presented on behalf of the Oregon Government Ethics Commission. She gave the board an overview of conflicts of interests, gifts, and other pertinent information. As an institution, EOU can establish conflicts of interest more broadly in their bylaws if they desire. Any conflicts of interest should be announced at a public meeting by the board member. Written notice must be recorded with the public body, regarding any conflicts of interest.

Board members that are part of a union must refrain from participating in any discussion, debate, and voting on a related topic unless a quorum is not met. A board member that has a child attending EOU, must announce that conflict of interest to the board, refrain from discussion, and abstain from voting.

Since board members cannot accepted gifts exceeding a certain amount, the trustees are encouraged to donate gifts that exceed the \$50 limit to their university. Trustee Conner noted that this idea could begin a conversation about board culture and whether this board would want to adopt a procedure related to gifts.

Chair Nelson called for a break at 11:00 a.m.

5. Action Items

a. FY Education Operating Budget. Vice President Lara Moore gave a brief overview of the preliminary 2016 budget. She asked that any specific and detailed questions be kept for the committee meeting later that afternoon. Trustee Dixie Lund asked what the delivery line item was. Lara Moore answered that online students used

to pay a delivery fee but now it will be included in tuition. There is a variance in expenses related to administrative professionals which is due to a change in accounting practices and the break-up of the Oregon University System. Now we pay for some positions they use to provide. The “settle-up” line item refers to settling up tuition paid for by students across the Oregon for courses provided by other universities. Administrative professionals and athletic costs are now included in services and supplies. A predicted fund balance will be at 8.3% of revenue.

Trustee Ray Brown asked why EOU is seeing such a decline in differential tuition. Lara Moore answered that we are not sure if it is due to a lack of enrollment from our business program. President Insko noted that EOU plans to evaluate why there is this enrollment decline. Trustee Chaves asked how the 8.3% fund balance is related to our conditions with the HECC and our report to them. President Insko noted the report is based off of the university’s mission and vision, but finances will address the fiscal conditions at another date. Trustee George Mendoza asked the university staff if board members could have a refresher focusing on the new funding model and outcomes based funding.

Trustee Johnson noted that the timing of these reports are not ideal for our enrollment numbers and when we receive them. He also noted that this preliminary budget does not address housing and this is something the board may want to include in the budget for next year.

Trustee George Mendoza made a motion to approve the preliminary 2016 budget, with a second from Trustee Praeger-Goller. Trustee Abel Mendoza noted that the total personnel expenses are jumping up. Should extra money from the state go south, we might not be able to fund future increases. Lara Moore noted that the second week of November would be a better time to review the budget. The motion carried.

b. Honorary degree request. President Insko gave a brief summary of the accomplishments of former student Ronn Whitcraft who recently passed away. He became ill while finishing his degree in media arts and communication at EOU. President Insko asked that the board approve the honorary degree for Ronn Whitcraft.

Trustee Lund Dixie made a motion to approve the degree with a second from Trustee Ray Brown. The motion carried.

c. Nomination of Brad Stevens. Trustee Bill Johnson, chair of the Governance Committee, said that the governance committee has created a procedure for nominating candidates for vacant board positions. He read an overview of essential characteristics and short biography of Dr. Brad Stevens. Trustee Johnson asked that the

board accept this candidate so that his name be presented to the Governor for appointment.

Trustee Johnson made a motion to approve the candidate, with a second from Chair Nelson. The motion carried.

d. Proposal for new academic program. Interim Dean Dan Mielke presented a brief overview of the “Get Focused, Stay Focused” program which is a ten year plan to complete high school and college. It starts with “Success 101” which begins with 9th grade students as a part of Eastern Promise. The curriculum for this program is being used nationwide. From this program, the questions arose whether EOU could put together a graduate level certificate program to train other people in this program. That is what is presented before the board. This certificate program will include 5 credits, for a total of 15 to complete the certificate. This curricular action would be available to those that wish to participate. Trustee George Mendoza noted that this program creates opportunities to set goals for and encourage students.

Trustee George Mendoza made a motion to approve this new academic program with a second from Trustee Conner. The motion carried.

6. Information Items

a. Shared governance support: Colleen Dunne-Cascio, new Chair of the University Council, an EOU alumni, introduced herself to the board. She anticipates that the UC will review any policies that affect the university. The UC has recently been involved with a new alcohol and drug policy and emergency notification policy and system. She anticipates that the UC will be working closely with the Office of the General Counsel to review OUS policies. Chair Dunne-Cascio asked to inform the UC what policies will need board approval or ones that UC can sort out on their own.

The Office of Student Services has a good relationship with faculty, staff, and local law enforcement to address any concerns with a potential threat. Trustee Pat Hinton noted that the union she is a member of, SEIU, is concerned that campus security is understaffed and some positions have not been filled or are only filled by students.

President of the Faculty Senate, John Knudson-Martin, gave his report and noted that the FS focuses mainly on academic policies and programs. He echoed President Insko’s questions of where EOU will be in 2029. Professor Knudson-Martin mentioned the essential components document given to the board in the spring. He asked the board to think about the education plan in relation to the business plan for the university. He anticipates a provost search update and semester conversion discussion at the next

Faculty Senate meeting. Trustee Lund noted that students in our region are fighting fires and most likely cannot start classes until late September.

Trustee Elsie Praeger-Goller gave the ASEOU update on behalf of President Addie Beplate. In a recent student body meeting they discussed campus safety and the effects of outcomes based funding on students. The La Grande police chief will attend the next ASEOU meeting. The students are focused on improving the health and wellness center on campus and are asking students what they would like to be included. Student were reminded of the new drug and alcohol policy that went into effect at the beginning of the term. Students of EOU have dropped membership from the Oregon Student Association (OSA). Students will also be working with Vice President Tim Seydel to see how they can work with the legislature to gain support, and in a similar fashion with our individual governing board.

Trustee Abel Mendoza noted that when Senator Johnson came to the retreat, she mentioned seeing EOU students in Salem. EOU needs to continue to make sure our students have a presence in the capital.

b. Enrollment Update. Chair Nelson asked if the Vice President of Student Services Xavier Romano would give the enrollment update before the HECC update. Vice president Romano referenced the enrollment numbers on the PowerPoint. To increase our enrollment numbers EOU is reaching out to farther territories such as Alaska and Colorado. The Office of Student Services has hired their new Trio director.

c. Higher Education Coordinating Commission Update. Vice President of University Advancement Tim Seydel gave a brief update regarding our partnership with the HECC. Trustee Bill Johnson noted that the HECC is charged with evaluating EOU. Do we have a timeline for the report EOU must submit to the HECC? President Insko noted that the Technical and Regional Universities (TRUs) will be giving a report in December 2016. The two areas of focus for this board would be the conditions and at some level, be involved with the HECC meetings (which Chair Nelson volunteered for). The HECC is statutorily required to oversee the public universities by the State Legislature.

7. Adjournment

President Insko accepted a document on behalf of the EOU library from Trustee Conner. This document has been in production for over fifteen years and lists over 600 native names in our homeland in southwest Washington and northeast Oregon. With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:53 AM.

Respectfully submitted,
Heidi Tilicki