



**Board of Trustees
Academic and Student Affairs Committee Meeting**

**Thursday, September 17, 2015
1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. (or until business concludes)
DeBoer Room, Hannon Library**

MINUTES

Call to Order and Preliminary Business

Committee Chair, Teresa Sayre, called the meeting to order at 1:01 p.m.

Roll Call

The following committee members were present and a quorum was established: Teresa Sayre, Sheri Bodager, Judy Shih, Joanna Steinman, and Steve Vincent.

The following committee members were absent: Les AuCoin and Shea Washington.

The following trustees were also present: Roy Saigo (ex officio), April Sevcik, and Dennis Slattery.

Other meeting guests included: Ryan Brown, Head of Community and Media Relations; Jason Catz, General Counsel; Liz Shelby, Chief of Staff and Director of Government Relations; Sabrina Prud'homme, University Board Secretary; Dr. Susan Walsh, Provost and Vice President for Academic and Student Affairs; Don Hill, Classroom and Media Services Manager; Craig Morris, Vice President for Finance and Administration; Taylor Burke, Director of the Office of Student Support and Intervention; Chris Stanek, Director of Institutional Research; Mark Denney, Assistant Vice President for Budget and Planning; Marjorie Trueblood-Gamble, Director of Diversity and Inclusion; Kathy Park, Executive Assistant; Treasa Sprague, Administrative Services Coordinator; David Coburn, Oregon Student Association; Emily Pfeiffer, ASSOU; Brian Sorenson, ASSOU; Marianne Golding; APSOU; Alex Mesadieu; Megan Mercier, ASSOU; and Olena Black, League of Women Voters.

Public Comment

No public comment was made.

Consent Agenda

There were no changes or corrections to the minutes from the July 17, 2015 meeting. Trustee Vincent moved to approve the minutes; Trustee Steinman seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Provost's Report

Dr. Susan Walsh gave a brief report on the American Association of State Colleges and Universities (AASCU) meeting. Several representatives from SOU attended the July conference in Portland. There were many concurrent sessions. Dr. Walsh and Dr. Karen Stone presented two well-received briefings: one was on the university's new structure and they were invited to

return to present “lessons learned.” They also provided a “lessons learned” presentation on SOU’s House experience, which was first shared two years ago. Trustee Slattery was among the group of SOU attendees.

Introduction to the Office of Student Support and Intervention

Taylor Burke, Director of Student Support and Intervention (SSI), gave an overview of the SSI mission, program and team. Significant areas of attention for the SSI office are: student intervention and case management; community standards and student conduct; confidential advising; and Title IX. She explained their student-centered approach and sources for incoming reports of concern.

She also discussed the SOU Cares Report and common interventions for the SSI office. Ms. Burke described faculty and staff as very engaged in submitting Cares reports and successful implementation showed that Cares reporting had a 67 percent increase in the last year, while the number of conduct cases remained fairly steady.

Campus Choice was described as part of SSI’s approach to Title IX. It is modeled on the You Have Options program and was developed collaboratively with the Ashland Police Department (APD). Angela Fleischer in the SSI office has been the primary and motivating factor in the program. This program has garnered national attention, served as a model for legislation sponsored by Senator McCaskill, and Ms. Fleischer continues to coordinate with higher education institutions as well as the state governor’s office and the attorney general’s sexual assault task force in Oregon. The Office of SSI has a survivor-centered approach that is trauma-informed. SOU is the only higher education institution the SSI office is aware of that uses a forensic, experiential, trauma-informed interviewing practice—meaning that victims may be unable to give a linear description of events and this interviewing practice allows them to get information from victims in the same manner it is stored in their memories. The program is Title IX compliant, has confidential advising, and partners with the APD and community response agencies.

Much discussion ensued around the topic. Responding to questions by Trustee Shih, and later Chair Sayre, Ms. Burke described how they train student leaders (including those in housing), faculty and staff so that individuals know how and where to refer a person. She cited information on the Student Life tab on the web, including the report form. She explained that the office is always broadening the methods used to educate students and improve access to this information. Marjorie Trueblood-Gamble added that faculty are encouraged to talk about SOU’s culture of reporting and protecting students in their classes, and to mention the program on their syllabi using language the provost’s office has developed.

Trustee Shih asked if the increase in reported cases was due to increased faculty involvement and Ms. Burke said it was. Jason Catz described the success and utility of the program. He further stated that the rising number of reports of Title IX cases is positive because it means the institution is not ignoring problems. Having used the program, Trustee Slattery commented that the program has actually saved lives, and that an increase in the number shows that the process works.

Trustee Vincent inquired as to whether the program mitigates the risk of incidents on campus. Ms. Burke believed SOU is minimizing risk and Mr. Catz stated the program mitigates legal risk

as well. In his three years at SOU, Mr. Catz has not had a single law suit that resulted from an incident handled by the SSI. He added that it reduces regulatory risk from the government and governmental feedback has been that the process is good, thorough, and thoughtful.

Trustee Vincent asked if there was retention tracking on the students who seek the office's services. Ms. Burke said they do not track retention in these cases because sometimes their job is to not retain certain students. Chair Sayre later added that she understood the reasons for not tracking retention of certain students, but asked if they might be able to track data for students who are referred for academic reasons. Ms. Burke indicated it could be a source for compiling information.

Trustee Sevcik asked for details on how the SSI office interacts with students' families. Ms. Burke said they do it "carefully." They handle each case based on its individual facts, whether they have a FERPA release, whether it is an emergency or a nonemergency case, whether the student wants them to engage with the family, and balance the factors involved. They want families to be involved directly and love to have them as partners. The more people the students have in their support system, the more likely they are to succeed. However, they must be cautious of FERPA and they encourage families to have these conversations. Without a FERPA release, they are extremely limited in the private information they can share with families, which Mr. Catz echoed.

Dr. Walsh invited Ms. Burke to address the committee at this point in time because the start of school is one of the peak points for the SSI office. Dr. Walsh is grateful for the work of Ms. Burke, Ms. Trueblood-Gamble, and others on Title IX cases, SOU Cares, and SSI cases. Ms. Burke has led the effort along with her colleagues and Dr. Walsh publicly thanked her for that leadership. Mr. Catz said that Ms. Burke has created a great program that is considered a national model.

Academic Calendar Review

Dr. Walsh discussed the academic calendar and highlighted upcoming welcome events to kick-off the fall term. She then talked about how quickly things move during 10-week academic quarters rather than 15-week semesters.

Dr. Walsh described and encouraged attendance at the Faculty Senate governing body's meetings, which take place every other Monday evening, from 4:00 pm to 5:30 pm. Trustee Vincent asked how many usually attend these meetings and Dr. Saigo estimated that about 30 faculty members are on the Faculty Senate. Dr. Walsh also described the function, composition, and purpose of the University Planning Board, a faculty and staff committee which oversees decisions at the university level about facilities, budget items, and certain policies.

Enrollment Update

Chris Stanek covered the weekly enrollment reports. He reviewed full time equivalent (FTE) targets established in retrenchment and noted their progress to goal. Mr. Stanek discussed student credit hours, undergraduates and graduates, noting that numbers will continue to adjust in the first few weeks of school.

He explained that the state's funding model changed from an enrollment based model to one of completion (degrees conferred) and enrollment. The first year of the new model is a 20 to 80

percent split between degrees conferred and enrollment; the next year will be a 40 to 60 percent split; then a 60 to 40 percent split for allocation of money.

Mr. Stanek noted increases in diversity, international students and “return after absence” students. Trustee Shih asked why the funding model excludes Asian students as underrepresented minorities. Mr. Stanek was unsure but suggested further discussion on that topic, focusing on whether Asians are an underrepresented group specifically at SOU.

Trustee Vincent asked if there were any benchmarks or diversity goals for the university and if the goal is to improve appropriations based on the formula. For example, based on some of his interactions with Native American tribes, Trustee Vincent believes there may be more college-bound Native Americans. Dr. Walsh replied that SOU recently hired a recruiter for Native American students. Mr. Morris said the institution needs to develop a way to track enrollment mix to better capture inroads in that regard.

Mr. Stanek then explained the funnel report noting the yield rate and expectations for one of SOU’s largest freshman classes. Trustee Vincent asked whether the goal was to improve the yield rate or to increase the number of applicants. He also asked about the yield rate compared to other universities. Mr. Stanek explained in detail that both would work well but as long as SOU has large freshmen classes, he does not find yield rates troubling. Mr. Stanek noted the comparison would be good to explore. Chair Sayre asked if last year’s freshman class of approximately 700 was the largest freshman class in SOU’s history and Mr. Stanek said it was definitely one of the largest and this year’s numbers will exceed last year’s.

In response to Trustee Bodager’s question, Mr. Stanek confirmed that SOU tracks the high schools from which applicants come and that there are bonus points in the model for students from rural areas.

Accreditation Process and Timeline Review

Dr. Walsh briefly discussed the accreditation process and timeline. She said it is important to note that we thought the deadline would be two years away but it is actually September of 2016. The steering committee is working hard and she is confident we will be ready and will meet the September 2016 deadline. They have a lot of data to analyze and digest and she will present a more comprehensive update in a future meeting.

HECC Updates and Reporting Review

Chair Sayre advised the committee another report will be due to the HECC in December. To this end, Dr. Walsh summarized the work the Provosts have been doing with the evaluation criteria, the governance evaluation criteria, and the mission alignment work. Provosts have been working with the HECC and are awaiting their feedback. Portland State, University of Oregon and Oregon State will be using the criteria starting next month. It is unclear whether the HECC is pleased with the criteria and mission alignment pieces but the presidents and provosts believe they have submitted their best product and will wait for further guidance from the HECC.

Chair Sayre asked Mr. Morris to remind the committee of the whole process. He outlined: the first step is the report SOU submitted to the State Board of Higher Education in June. The second step is the conditions report due to the HECC in December 2015 for feedback. The final

step is in December 2017, which culminates in an opinion on whether the institution is financially sustainable and heading in the right direction.

Trustee Vincent expressed confusion on who has authority to determine what changes SOU would have to make: the HECC or the SOU Board of Trustees. Mr. Morris stated the original language of the statute was that the HECC would make a determination and inform the governor of its opinion. The language was changed from the HECC to this board making the determination of success. The HECC can still issue an opinion but this board has the authority to make the determination on whether SOU is on a sustainable enough track to continue with its own independent board and remain a public university.

Dr. Walsh stated that the HECC is still trying to figure out what its reach will be. Mr. Catz added that the statute specifically says the HECC has no authority except what is included in the statute and all other powers are delegated to the boards. Mr. Morris said the universities have to work to avoid authority creep.

SOU - Klamath Community College (KCC) Faculty/Staff Rates

Chair Sayre advised the committee that they needed to have an important conversation regarding the possibility of an SOU-KCC faculty/staff rate agreement. KCC would like to have policies much like those that exist among the seven Oregon universities for reciprocal staff tuition rates. Chair Sayre added the committee would dedicate a portion of the next meeting to this topic as well. The goal is to present a recommendation to the full board by December.

Dr. Walsh explained that having an agreement such as this could be precedent-setting for the institution. Presidents Saigo and Gutierrez met several times regarding articulations agreements. An agreement was reached where KCC students in certain programs could transfer to SOU with an associate's degree, finish their bachelor's degree at SOU, then get a master's degree. Much of the coursework could be done online or through distance learning. The relationship with KCC is good on the academic side, but Dr. Walsh brought this matter to the board because they were not comfortable extending staff rate privileges between SOU and KCC. She summarized the existing program among the seven universities and referred to the assumptions detailed on her handout. She also stressed that this potential agreement would only apply to staff of KCC and SOU, not to the spouses or children of the staff.

Trustees' robust exchange of questions, concerns, and ideas followed and have been grouped together and summarized for the record:

Considerations, Questions and Concerns

Would there be a limit to the number of credits, which is currently twelve for faculty/staff? "Staff" ought to be full time or somehow defined for these purposes. Would a limit-cap encourage students to prolong their education? Why would SOU do this with KCC and not other community colleges? Trustees would expect SOU to extend the same to Rogue Community College. Would SOU transfer the benefit to dependents? Is there a model for this elsewhere in the country? Why wouldn't SOU extend the benefit to online courses? Does SOU have the capacity to omit the fully paying students that might be lost to this initiative? Is there a way to track KCC employees taking classes at SOU currently?

Ideas, Suggestions, and Requests

If seriously considering, SOU may want to alter the percentage of the tuition rates or limit credits or a financial amount. The schools could also implement a pilot program. To encourage the transfer of students to the university, SOU could track transfers and allocate staff privileges based on that. SOU should consider adding an eligibility criterion only for in-state employees.

Additional discussion was around anticipated disproportionality in extending the benefit. Mr. Morris explained that currently students are exchanged between the seven universities, which will begin settling with each other this fiscal year. He noted that significant disproportionality could cause financial hardship for SOU.

President Saigo explained that the reason this initiative came about was because he and President Gutierrez were trying to think outside the box. They wanted to encourage some who might never get another degree if they stay where they are. This could result in loyalty through feeder systems. The schools don't know how many would take advantage of this opportunity but it could be a win-win situation.

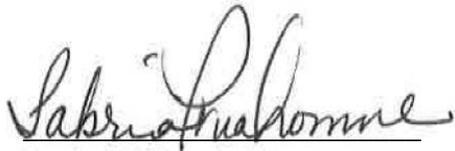
Chair Sayre concluded and informed the committee that between now and the next meeting, a small working group could draft finer points for the committee to consider based on this discussion.

Adjournment

Chair Sayre adjourned the meeting at 3:03 p.m.

Date: October 15, 2015

Respectfully submitted by,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Sabrina Prud'homme". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Sabrina Prud'homme
University Board Secretary