



OFFICE OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Public Meeting Notice

November 9, 2017

TO: Southern Oregon University Board of Trustees
FROM: Sabrina Prud'homme, University Board Secretary
RE: Notice of Special Meeting of the Board of Trustees

The Southern Oregon University Board of Trustees will hold a special meeting on the date and at the location set forth below.

The board will act on a proposed vision, mission statement, values, and strategic directions for the university. The board also will act on the proposed core themes for the university's year-one accreditation report. Topics of the meeting also include a discussion regarding the December meeting of the Higher Education Coordinating Commission.

The meeting will occur as follows:

Thursday, November 16, 2017
3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. (or until business is concluded)
Hannon Library, DeBoer Board Room, 3rd Floor, Room #303
Visit sou.edu/video to stream the meeting proceedings.

The Hannon Library is located at 1290 Ashland Street, on the Ashland campus of Southern Oregon University. **To arrange special accommodations or to sign-up in advance for public comment, please contact Kathy Park at (541) 552-8055 at least 72 hours in advance.**



**Board of Trustees
November 16, 2017**

Call to Order / Roll / Declaration of a Quorum



Board of Trustees Special Meeting

**Thursday, November 16, 2017
3:00 – 5:00 p.m. (or until business concludes)
DeBoer Room, Hannon Library**

AGENDA

Persons wishing to participate during the public comment period shall sign up at the meeting.

Please note: times are approximate and items may be taken out of order.

1 Call to Order/Roll/Declaration of a Quorum Chair Thorndike

1.1 Welcome and opening remarks

1.2 Roll and Declaration of a Quorum

Sabrina Prud'homme,
SOU, Board Secretary

1.3 Agenda Review

Chair Thorndike

2 Public Comment

3 Action Items

35 min. 3.1 Southern Oregon University Vision, Mission Statement, Values, and Strategic Directions Dr. Linda Schott, SOU, President

30 min. 3.2 Southern Oregon University Core Themes President Schott; Dr. Jody Waters, SOU, Associate Provost

30 min. **4 Information and Discussion**

4.1 December Meeting of the Higher Education Coordinating Commission President Schott

5 Adjournment

Chair Thorndike

Public Comment

SOU Vision, Mission Statement, Values, and Strategic Directions (Action)

Strategic Plan V 14

Vision: Southern Oregon University will be an inclusive, sustainable university for the future that guides all learners to develop the knowledge, capacities, and audacity to innovate boldly and create lives of purpose.

Mission:

Southern Oregon University is a regionally-engaged learning community committed to being the educational provider of choice for learners throughout their lives.

We inspire curiosity and creativity, compel critical thinking, foster discovery, and cultivate bold ideas and actions.

We achieve student success, professional preparation, and civic engagement through service excellence, evolving technologies, and innovative curriculum.

We foster access, equity, inclusion and diversity in thought and practice.

We prepare our learners to be responsible, engaged citizens in our democracy.

We promote economic vitality, sustainability, cultural enrichment, and social well-being in our region, the state, the nation, and the world.

Values:

SOU values

- The well-being and success of all learners.
- Critical thinking, discovery, and engaged learning.
- Equity, diversity, and inclusion.
- Creativity and collaboration
- Excellence, continuous improvement, and accountability
- A healthy, safe, and civil campus
- Economic vitality and environmental sustainability.
- Improving our community, region, and world.

Strategic Directions (11-3-17)

- SD 1: SOU will transform its pedagogy and curriculum (how and what it teaches) to enhance the success of its learners and graduates.**
- SD 2: SOU will become an employer of choice and provide excellent service to all of its constituents.**
- SD 3: SOU will actively model an environmentally sustainable campus and engage in collaborative research to promote an ecologically resilient bioregion.**
- SD 4: SOU will create a diverse, equitable, inclusive community where learners flourish.**
- SD 5: SOU will maintain financial stability and invest for institutional vitality.**
- SD 6: SOU will develop physical and virtual environments in which all learners can thrive.**
- SD 7: SOU will be a catalyst for economic vitality, civic engagement, and cultural enrichment through ongoing collaboration with local, state, national, and global partners.**

**Southern Oregon University
Board of Trustees**

**Proposed Resolution: Adoption of Vision, Mission Statement, Values, and
Strategic Directions for Southern Oregon University**

Whereas, effective July 1, 2015, Southern Oregon University is an independent public body governed by a Board of Trustees;

Whereas, ORS 352.089 requires the Board of Trustees of Southern Oregon University to adopt a mission statement for the University;

Whereas, a vision, mission statement, values and strategic directions to guide the university into the future were crafted using a thorough, transparent, iterative, and collaborative process including but not limited to strategic planning committee meetings, public meetings, in-depth discussions, and significant online feedback; and

Whereas, a wide variety of stakeholder groups including students, faculty, staff, university boards and committees, community members and partners, and civic leaders have been engaged throughout the development process; Now therefore be it

Resolved, that pursuant to ORS 352.089, the Board of Trustees of Southern Oregon University hereby adopts the Southern Oregon University Vision, Mission Statement, Values, and Strategic Directions; and be it further

Resolved, that the board authorizes the officers of the university to take the necessary and appropriate actions to forward the SOU Mission Statement to the Higher Education Coordinating Commission for its review and appropriate action.

SOU Core Themes (Action)

Draft Core Themes and Objectives for Accreditation

- I. **Using innovative curriculum, practices and technologies to achieve student learning and success. (“making the student better”)**
 - a) **Critical Thinking:** the comprehensive exploration of issues, ideas, artifacts, and events before accepting or formulating an opinion or conclusion (source: AAC&U Critical Thinking Value Rubric).
 - b) **Professional Preparation:** the development of written, oral, and visual communication skills that reflect disciplinary knowledge, professional behaviors, and abilities needed to enhance career opportunities.
 - c) **Civic Engagement:** the combination of knowledge, skills, values and motivation to make a difference in the civic life of our communities.
 - d) **Curiosity and Creativity:** the ability and willingness to cultivate, synthesize, interpret, and express ideas, images, or expertise in imaginative ways characterized by a high degree of innovation and divergent thinking.
- II. **Putting our guiding principles into practice. (“making the institution better”)**
 - a) **Efficiency and Sustainability:** the use of efficient, sustainable and financially sound operating processes and procedures.
 - b) **Service Excellence:** SOU programs provide excellent service for their constituents and other programs.
 - c) **Access and Equity:** the development of a campus climate in which constituents have equal, fair, and appropriate access to content, processes, facilities, and opportunities.
 - d) **Institutional Improvement:** the commitment to constant quality improvement.
- III. **Creating opportunities and inspiring the audacity to act upon beliefs and values in a broader context. (“making the world better”)**
 - a) **Diversity:** learners understand, contribute to, and thrive within a demographically and culturally diverse environment.
 - b) **Economic vitality:** SOU programs, partnerships, and people position the university as a driver of economic development in the Rogue Valley.
 - c) **Sustainability:** individual and institutional actions and educational activities articulate, support and advance sustainability efforts and achievements.
 - d) **Cultural Enrichment:** opportunities to experience, create, and appreciate expressive and material forms of culture.
 - e) **Well-being:** the convergence of physical and social well-being that extends beyond the traditional concepts of health and encourages a sense of belonging, social inclusion, and connection.

**Southern Oregon University
Board of Trustees**

Proposed Resolution: Adoption of Core Themes for Southern Oregon University

Whereas, the Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities (NWCCU), Southern Oregon University's accrediting body, requires the institution's governing board to approve the institutional Mission and Core Themes;

Whereas, the board has adopted a mission statement for Southern Oregon University on November 16, 2017; and

Whereas, the mission statement addresses institutional purpose and the Core Themes comprise essential elements of that mission, as defined by NWCCU; Now therefore, be it

Resolved, that the Board of Trustees hereby adopts the Core Themes for Southern Oregon University.

December Meeting of the Higher Education Coordinating Commission

Adjournment