

**Board of Trustees  
Academic and Student Affairs Committee Meeting  
Thursday, June 16, 2022**

**MINUTES**

***Theme: Responsiveness to Students - From Access to Success***

**Call to Order/Roll/Declaration of a Quorum**

Chair Jonathon Bullock called the meeting to order at 12:01 p.m. He welcomed trustees as well as presenters and special guests. A special welcome was offered to Dan DeNeui; Andrew Gay, Zac Olsen, Joel Perkins, Dr. Matt Stillman, and Carrie Vath, who attended to support the committee's discussions. Chair Bullock gave a special thanks and congratulations to Dr. Stillman and the university-wide team that helped deliver SOU's first in-person commencement since 2019.

Board Secretary Sabrina Prud'homme called the roll and a quorum was verified.

**Committee Members:**

Daniel Santos	Present	Steve Vincent	Present
Jon Bullock	Present	janelle wilson	Present
Debra Lee	Present	Barry Thalden	Present
Deborah Rosenberg	Present		

**Other Trustees in Attendance:** President Rick Bailey

**Public Comment**

Dani Brodie, current chapter chair of the OSPIRG student organization, joined the meeting via Zoom. They informed the committee of OSPIRG's focus on environmental and social justice issues describing several projects. The group was defunded by the Student Fee Committee; Dani asked that the trustees consider a budget that includes OSPIRG and requested help with funding the organization.

**Consent Agenda (Action)**

Due to capacity issues, there were no minutes to approve.

**Provost's Report**

Provost Sue Walsh informed the committee that Lane Community College is putting forward applied baccalaureate degrees in nursing, business, and child development/education and expressed concerns on the matter. Provost Walsh plans to talk with the divisions regarding this and the possibility of offering associate degrees. Discussion followed regarding the role of the Higher Education Coordinating Commission (HECC) and whether students' needs are being met.

She noted that the statewide Provost's Council continues to review legislative concepts. Provost's would like to see state monies follow the student to any post-secondary institution for Oregon Promise grants and see Oregon Opportunity Grants increase base funding levels as well as tier awards. The HECC and others are on board. She noted further that the Native American College Access Program is moving forward to the legislature and Strong Start funding will continue into the next biennium, which affect's SOU's BRIDGE program.

Provost Walsh shared that Governor Brown has allocated \$200 million for the Career Ready Oregon programs and \$95 million is slated for workforce-ready grants to support paid work experience, work programs, tuition and fee assistance, and other activities such as career pathways work. SOU can and will start looking at and applying for these grants.

### **Vice President's Report**

Vice President for Enrollment Management and Student Affairs, Dr. Neil Woolf, was excited to talk about the Raider Academic Awards and welcome the Top Student Leader, Erin Wright and her husband, Brian. Dr. Woolf read the complimentary statement that was read during the awards ceremony regarding Erin's work in starting and running a student club for students to discuss and receive peer support with mental health.

He also reviewed the enrollment management dashboard and completions update, as presented in the materials; he clarified the difference between degrees awarded and students who applied for graduation.

### **Action, Information and Discussion Items**

#### Curriculum Update

##### *Certificate in Restorative Justice (Action)*

Associate Provost, Dr. Dan DeNeui provided a brief overview of the certificate program as well as background on the need for transformation in criminal justice programs and approaches, citing a significant enrollment decline in criminal justice programs after the George Floyd incident. Courses that are foundational to the criminal justice program are included in the certificate and courses with an additional restorative justice focus are required. SOU will be the first university in the state to offer such a program.

Trustees asked about recruitment within and from other current majors, workforce opportunities, concerns about the duration of time needed to complete the certificate, and applicability of the certificate to other disciplines such as education and higher education.

Trustee Santos called for a motion to approve the Certificate in Restorative Justice. Trustee Thalden seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

##### *Certificate in Sport and Recreation Management (Action)*

Joel Perkins, Chair of Health and Exercise Science and instructor in the department, provided a brief overview of the certificate program, as proposed. Trustees sought clarity on workforce applicability what sports officials do, exactly.

Trustee Santos called for a motion to approve the Certificate in Restorative Justice. Trustee Vincent seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

##### *Minor in Marketing*

Provost Walsh informed the committee that SOU is leveraging the coursework it offers to provide new options for students by creating this minor in marketing, the in-depth proposal for which, was included in the meeting materials. Trustees asked how complementary the minor was expected to be to students in other departments and about the possibility that offering the minor would increase full-time equivalency (FTE); the university does expect these outcomes. Provost Walsh reminded the committee that trustees do not need to approve new minors.

### *Bachelor of Arts/Bachelor of Science in Music Industry and Production Studies*

Provost Walsh provided an update on this program that was approved at the committee's special meeting in May. The HECC approved it; so, SOU will be offering the new program in the fall of 2022. She thanked trustees for their support.

### **General Education Task Force Update**

Andrew Gay provided an overview of SOU's general education (GenEd) transformation, as it applies to strategic directions one and four of the university's strategic plan. Some objectives of the GenEd Task Force's work have been to reduce credit requirements, make learning goals and requirements more transparent and purposeful for students; make GenEd more attractive to prospective students; and to ensure maximum transferability of credits. Gay explained how shifting from discipline-focused outcomes to skill-based capacities with student-focused outcomes will improve the student experience, increase equity and access, and prepare students for the workforce. Gay highlighted the progress and accomplishments including professional development of more than 70 faculty and the development of 92 courses with 25 more in the pipeline. He outlined the next steps in preparation for launch.

Trustees discussed the representation of programs across the disciplines, better real-world applicability of the capacities to the needs of the students, representation of student work through the portfolios, and offered overall commendation for the transformation.

### Student, Faculty, and Staff Affinity Groups

Drs. Stillman, Vath, and Woolf discussed the work of the affinity groups to support the recruitment and retention of students as well as faculty and staff, and discussed data on the students, as presented in the materials. They talked with different groups to find out their specific needs/wants as well as with staff who could volunteer to serve on these groups. Mentorship and training were common themes among these groups, both with peers and faculty/staff. As a result, affinity groups have been created for American Samoan, Latin-X, Black/African American, Native American, and Asian/Pacific Islander students.

Trustees discussed mentoring, tribal outreach, student retention, suggestions for including Eastern Oregon residents, and LGBTQ+ as groups.

### EAB's Navigate: Update on Retention

Provost Walsh and VP Woolf updated the committee on the use of EAB's Navigate and how it is helping SOU with retention. Currently 78 percent of students and 82 percent of faculty use Navigate. They discussed the data that those who attended Navigate campaigns retained at rates higher than those who did not and versus SOU overall.

### Data Sharing Agreements

Chair Bullock shared the importance of the data sharing agreements with local and regional high schools and school districts. The chair framed the item by noting the gap that exists between K-12 and higher education, and that high school graduation and college preparation are not one and the same. VP Woolf defined these agreements, presented the benefits to the students, school districts and SOU. Currently, agreements have been signed with Medford School District, Ashland School District, Grants Pass School District, and Redmond Proficiency Academy. Invitations have been extended to Phoenix-Talent School District and Eagle Point School District. There are active discussions with Portland Public Schools, Central Point School District and Roseburg Public Schools. Admissions Director Zac Olsen discussed the next steps in the data sharing process as well as targeted communications.

Trustees discussed the importance of ethicality in these programs; concerns about inundating students with email, pressuring students, and ability to opt out. They also discussed budget, best practices, improving access to higher education, and tracking ROI.

#### Student-Centered Statewide Discussions

President Bailey spoke of the statewide higher education discussions taking place in the state. The Oregon Council of Presidents and the Oregon Community College Association partnered with the National Center for Higher Education Management Systems (NCHEMS) to analyze higher education in the state in terms of collaborative efforts between institutions, serving underrepresented populations, and other areas. The Student Voices Task force is a legislative task force that will come to SOU in July to get the student perspective. He later added that in the NCHEMS discussion, it was noted that state investment in higher education is the same as it was 20 years ago; Oregon ranks in the 40's terms of the 50 states' funding contributions to higher ed; and Oregon ranks 43<sup>rd</sup> in the nation for high school students that go directly into higher education. With these numbers, the state needs to drive the strategy for higher ed and this should be a wakeup call.

Jeanne Stallman explained that the NCHEMS work and the task force are running parallel with work HECC is doing. The three of these will come together to inform the legislative session and hopefully all point in the same direction on where the state needs to go.

#### Future Meetings

Chair Bullock announced the next regularly scheduled meeting of the committee is scheduled to take place at noon on Thursday, October 20.

#### **Adjournment**

With no further business proposed, Chair Bullock adjourned the meeting at 2:55 PM.

Date: October 20, 2022

Respectfully submitted by,



Sabrina Prud'homme  
University Board Secretary