

Board Statement on the Conduct of Public Meetings Board of Trustees of Southern Oregon University

1.0 Regular Meetings

1.1 Content of the Agenda. Only items approved by the Chair, President or a majority of the Board may be placed on the agenda for a regular meeting.

1.2 Notice to Trustees. Reasonable effort will be made to provide notice of a regular meeting of the Board of Trustees and all available, pertinent materials to each trustee seven calendar days before the meeting. The proposed agenda and all available, pertinent materials for a regular public meeting of the Board should be provided to each trustee by email to the trustee's official Southern Oregon University email address, which may be an email message that contains only a link to the agenda and materials, seven calendar days before any regularly scheduled meeting.

1.3 Notice to Others. Reasonable effort will be made to provide notice of a regular public meeting of the Board of Trustees and all available, pertinent materials to all others six calendar days before the meeting.

1.4 Board Calendar. The Board shall meet at least four times per calendar year. Generally, regular Board meetings will be in January, March or April, June, and October. The Board Secretary will work with the Board to generate a schedule of regular Board meetings at least one year in advance. The Board Secretary will cause to be posted on the Board's website and delivered to each trustee periodically an updated schedule of the Board's regular meetings.

1.5 Order of Regular Meetings. The following will be the order of business at each regular public meeting of the Board of Trustees:

1. Call to Order/Roll/Declaration of a Quorum/Land Acknowledgment
2. Public Comment
3. Consent Agenda (including approval of minutes)
4. Reports
5. Information, Discussion, and Action Items
6. Adjournment

The Chair in consultation with the President determines the items to be placed on the consent agenda. An item may be removed from the consent agenda by any trustee in which case the matter will be treated as an information, discussion or action item as appropriate to the item. The order of business of the Board may be altered at the request of the President or as determined by the Chair or majority vote of a quorum of the Board.

2.0 Special Meetings and Emergency Meetings

2.1 Definition. Any meeting that is not a regular meeting of the Board is a special meeting of the Board or, in proper cases, an emergency meeting.

2.2 Content of the Agenda. Only items approved by the Chair or majority of a quorum may be placed on the agenda for a special meeting.

2.3 Notice to Trustees. Reasonable effort will be made to provide notice of a special meeting of the Board of Trustees and all available, pertinent materials to each trustee no less than five calendar days before the meeting. The proposed agenda and all available, pertinent materials for a special meeting of the Board should be provided to each trustee by email, which may be an email message that contains only a link to the agenda and materials, five calendar days before any special meeting.

2.4 Notice to Others. Reasonable effort will be made to provide notice of a special meeting of the Board of Trustees and all available, pertinent materials to all others four calendar days before the meeting.

2.5 Meetings. Notwithstanding anything to the contrary in this Board statement, should a special or emergency meeting be set on less than five days' notice, reasonable efforts shall be made to provide appropriate notice and all available, pertinent materials as soon as reasonably practicable.

3.0 Role of the Chair

The Chair presides over all meetings of the Board and is authorized to control meetings, preserve order and decorum, and prohibit comments that are duplicative, disruptive, repetitive or irrelevant. Meetings may be canceled or rescheduled at the discretion of the Chair.

4.0 Procedure for Appearing Before the Board

4.1 Reports to the Board. At each regularly scheduled meeting of the Board of Trustees, the Board invites representatives of the official student, faculty, and nonfaculty staff governance organizations to provide reports to the board. The chairs or presidents of these organizations or their designee are invited to deliver live, verbal reports to the board, or to provide written reports to the board, if desired.

4.2 Public Comment. Public comment is an important component of effective governance. Public comment provides an opportunity for the public to share ideas,

information and opinions. The opportunity for live public comments will be provided at each regular meeting of the Board of Trustees. Public comment may not be used as a forum for negotiations or engaging in discussion.

4.2.1 At each regularly scheduled meeting of the Board of Trustees, the Board invites public comments from representatives of the University's official campus labor organizations. The president of each organization or their designee is invited to deliver live, verbal comments to the board, or to provide written information to the board, if desired.

4.2.2 Following meetings of the Board in which public comments are provided, the governing board or an appropriate designee will respond to questions that arise from public comments at meetings of the governing board. Respondents may include the Board Secretary, University President, or others as directed by the Board or the President.

4.3 Priority. The Chair has the authority to alter this protocol in the interest of time or other considerations. Priority in public comment during regular meetings of the Board will be given first to invited public commenters, then to those commenting on topics on the meeting agenda, and thereafter to those who sign up in advance of the meeting in the order in which members of the public signed up to comment.

4.4 Sign-Up. An individual who wishes to provide public comment must sign up with the Board Secretary in advance of the meeting, stating his or her name, affiliation with the University or other group, and topic to be discussed. Sign-up may be available on the Board's website, and a sign-up sheet will be available at each meeting. Sign-up via the Board's website or email address, trustees@sou.edu, must be made at least 24 hours in advance of the scheduled start of a meeting.

4.5 Duration. Unless otherwise indicated on the agenda or by the Chair, each public comment period will be up to 30 minutes with a limit of three minutes per speaker. The Chair may call individuals out of order of sign-up to ensure that different viewpoints are heard during the public comment period. The Chair may require that a group designate one spokesperson to make comments. Those who sign up and are not called are invited to share their comments via trustees@sou.edu. The public comment period is complete when any public comment has been provided or the public comment period expires, whichever occurs first. If no one has signed up for public comment, the public comment period is complete at the discretion of the Chair of the meeting.

4.6 Written Information. An individual who wants to provide written information to the Board may do so by: (1) sending the material electronically to

trustees@sou.edu; (2) delivering the material to the Office of the Board Secretary; or (3) mailing the material to the Office of the Board Secretary. The Chair, President and Board Secretary will determine whether and, if so, when submitted material is appropriate for dissemination to trustees based on the University's bylaws and relevant Board actions. Materials may be subject to disclosure under the Oregon Public Records Law.

5.0 Role of the Board Secretary

5.1 Notices and Minutes. The Board Secretary is responsible for causing: the issuance of required notices of meetings of the Board; the issuance of the agenda; the preparation and advance distribution of the minutes as part of the Board materials; and making arrangements for any audio recording, audio and video recording, streaming audio, or streaming audio and video. The Board Secretary shall cause the minutes and any recording or transmission to be maintained in accordance with applicable records retention requirements and is the custodian of such records. For notice purposes, a calendar day includes the date of the meeting.

6.0 Executive Sessions

6.1 Authorization. Executive sessions are authorized by the Oregon Public Meetings Law. The Chair shall have discretion, consistent with applicable law, to determine whether the Board or a committee should meet in executive session. When the Chair determines that an executive session is appropriate, the Chair will use the following procedure:

- A. The Chair will announce the executive session as required by law and cite the basis for and statute authorizing an executive session for each subject to be discussed;
- B. The Chair or Board Secretary will specify individuals who may remain in the meeting;
- C. The Chair or Board Secretary will instruct news media on each subject that the news media may not disclose;
- D. The Chair or Board Secretary will also notify news media that they are prohibited from making audio or video recordings of the executive session;
- E. The Chair or Board Secretary will notify news media that they are excluded from the executive session for one or more of the reasons set forth in section 6.4 below;
- F. The Chair or Board Secretary will determine whether the executive session is recorded or whether minutes shall be kept. If a recording is made, the

Board Secretary shall specify on the recording when the executive session begins and ends; and

- G. At the conclusion of the executive session, the Board Secretary shall notify all other members of the audience that the portion of the meeting open to the public has resumed.

6.2 Notice. Notice of an executive session shall be provided substantially in accordance with notice of a regular, special or emergency meeting, depending on whether the executive session is to take place during a regular, special, or emergency meeting. The Board may hold meetings that consist solely of an executive session. The basis for and statute authorizing the executive session will be included in the notice.

6.3 Inclusion of News Media. Only representatives of the institutional news media are permitted in executive session when not excluded.

6.4 Exclusion of News Media. Representatives of the news media are allowed to attend executive sessions other than those held to conduct deliberations with persons designated by the governing body to carry on labor negotiations; to confer with counsel on current litigation or litigation likely to be filed if the member of the news media is a party to the litigation or is an employee, agent or contractor of a news media organization that is a party to the litigation; or when material or information that is confidential under federal law or that constitutes a faculty record under Oregon law will be discussed.


7.0 **Committee Meetings**

Committee meetings shall be conducted substantially in accordance with this policy.

Approved on October 20, 2023



Sabrina Prud'homme
University Board Secretary



Daniel P. Santos

Chair, Board of Trustees

Revision	Change	Date
	-Initial Version	January 30, 2015
1	Board Calendar, Order of Regular Meetings, and Special Meetings and Emergency Meetings sections made more specific; basic edits and corrections	January 18, 2019
2	Basic edits and corrections	January 20, 2023
3	Enhancements to “Procedure for Appearing Before the Board” for reports or public comments; responses to public comments added; and basic edits.	October 20, 2023