

**Southern Oregon University
Board of Trustees**

**Resolution
Fiscal Year 2025-2026 Budget and Draft Plan of Action**

Whereas, the Board of Trustees is charged with the long-term sustainability and fiscal viability of Southern Oregon University (“University”) to meet the academic and employment needs of our region and our State;

Whereas, the Board of Trustees seeks to provide a diverse academic environment where students can thrive and are supported academically, emotionally, and socially at an affordable cost;

Whereas, the Board of Trustees seeks to provide a stable employment environment that allows faculty and staff an opportunity to thrive, which includes competitive compensation as well as opportunities for personal and professional growth;

Whereas the Board of Trustees recognizes that the University derives much of its revenue from student tuition and fees and believes that it is in the best long-term interests of the University not to raise current student tuition and fees further, in order to keep the pursuit of higher education at Southern Oregon University accessible to students and their families, enable the University to remain competitive with other universities, and recruit and retain students;

Whereas, the Board of Trustees recognizes that the State of Oregon is 46th in the nation in state support for public universities, and there is currently insufficient state revenue allocated for the University to help sustain current operations for the biennium and near term;

Whereas, the Board of Trustees recognizes that the projected Fiscal Year 2026 revenue and expenses assume that \$3,241,000 in reductions will need to be taken immediately to balance a budget, and that additional measures will be needed for the University to operate;

Whereas, this amount in reductions achieves a fund balance of 0.17 percent, which equates to less than one day of operations in the Education and General/Budgeted Operations fund balance;

Whereas, cuts to federal funding benefiting the University have occurred, and additional federal budget impacts remain unknown at this time;

Whereas, the Board of Trustees recognizes that this resolution will result in additional reductions for a total of \$5,000,000 in structural budget reductions that will substantially impact University operations and employees;

Whereas, the Board of Trustees acknowledges and values the importance of collaboration with its shared governance partners and encourages the University Administration to engage them and other necessary campus constituents in achieving the goals of this Resolution, it also understands that due to the immediate fiscal and cash flow needs of the University, there is limited time available for collaboration to meet the goals of this Fiscal Year 2026 Budget Resolution;

Whereas, ORS 352.102(1) provides that, except as set forth within ORS 352.102, the Board of Trustees may authorize, establish, collect, manage, use in any manner, and expend all revenue derived from tuition and mandatory enrollment fees;

Whereas, ORS 352.087(1)(a) provides that the Board of Trustees may acquire, receive, hold, keep, pledge, control, convey, manage, use, lend, expend, and invest all moneys, appropriations, gifts, bequests, stock, and revenue from any source;

Whereas, ORS 352.087(1)(i) provides that the Board of Trustees may, subject to limitations set forth in that section, spend all available moneys without appropriation or expenditure limitation approval from the Legislative Assembly; and

Whereas, the budget of Southern Oregon University shall be prepared in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles, as required by ORS 352.087(2); Now, therefore,

Be it resolved, the Board of Trustees hereby adopts the Fiscal Year 2025-2026 combined operations budget of \$84,544,809, which is comprised of:

1. Education and General Fund in the sum of \$66,765,811;
2. Designated Operations and Service Center Operations in the sum of \$5,798,336; and
3. Auxiliaries budget in the sum of \$11,980,662.

Be it further resolved, the Board of Trustees recognizes that for the University to thrive, it must make structural and cultural changes in its educational offerings and operations and directs the University Administration to take immediate action to begin to balance the University budget described in this Resolution and address these structural deficiencies;

Be it further resolved, that on or before July 31, 2025, the University Administration shall provide, for information purposes, a draft plan of action to the

Board of Trustees and a summary of any actions already underway to meet the budget requirements. In addition, the plan will include an analysis of the University's current financial reserves and a plan to achieve stable and adequate financial reserves;

Be it finally resolved, that if this budget and draft plan of action are inadequate to support the future long-term viability of the University and allow it to thrive, the University Administration will also propose an alternative draft plan of action and budget on or before July 31, 2025. All future budgets should be based generally upon: state funding calculated at current service levels using historical trends; tuition and fees increases below five percent annually; and costs, including employee benefits, calculated using historical trends.

VOTE:

Barry	Absent
Chavez	Yes
Clough	Yes
Goodrich	Yes
Lee	Yes
Medina	Absent
Mendoza	Yes
Santos	Absent
Schepmann	Yes
Sharma	Non-Voting
Shelby	Yes
Taitano	Yes
Thalden	Yes

DATE: June 20, 2025

Recorded by,



Sabrina Prud'homme
University Board Secretary