

**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. Every 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 no less than 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 that contains only a link to the agenda and materials, not less than seven days before any regularly scheduled meeting.

1.3 Notice to Others. Every 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 no less than six calendar days before the meeting.

1.4 Board Calendar. The Board must meet at least once quarterly. Generally, regular Board meetings will be in September, December, March and June. The Secretary will work with each Board member to generate a schedule of regular Board meetings for at least one year in advance. The 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:

1. Call to Order/Roll/Declaration of a Quorum
2. Public Comment
3. Reports
4. Consent Agenda (including approval of minutes)
5. Action Items
 - a. Matters before the Board by Seconded Motion
 - b. Other Matters before the Board
6. Information and Discussion Items
7. Adjournment

The Chair or President determines the items to be placed on the consent agenda. An item may be removed from the consent agenda by a Trustee. The order of business of the Board may be altered by the Chair, President or majority vote of a quorum.

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, President or majority of a quorum may be placed on the agenda for a special meeting.

2.3 **Notice to Trustees.** Every 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 that contains only a link to the agenda and materials, not less than five days before any special meeting.

2.4 **Notice to Others.** Every 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 no less than four calendar days before the meeting.

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 in the discretion of the Chair.

4.0 Procedure for Appearing Before the Board

4.1 **Importance.** Public comment is an important component of effective governance. Public comment provides an opportunity to share ideas, information and opinions. Public comment may not be used as a forum for negotiations or asking questions of individuals or Trustees. The opportunity for public comment will be provided at regular meetings of the Board.

4.2 **Protocol.** The Chair has the authority to alter this protocol in the interest of time or other considerations. Priority in public comment will be given to topics on the meeting agenda.

4.3 **Sign-Up.** An individual who wishes to provide public comment must sign up with the Secretary of the University 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 must be made at least 24 hours in advance of the scheduled start of a meeting.

4.4 **Duration.** Unless otherwise indicated on the agenda or by the Chair, each public comment period will be between 15 and 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.

4.5 **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 University Secretary; or (3) mailing the material to the Office of the University Secretary. The Chair, President and 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 Public Records Law.

5.0 Role of the Secretary

5.1 **Notices and Minutes.** The 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 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 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:

- 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
- The Chair or Secretary will specify individuals who may remain in the meeting
- The Chair or Secretary will instruct news media on each subject that the news media may not disclose
- The Chair or Secretary will also notify news media that they are prohibited from making audio or video recordings of the executive session
- The Chair or 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
- The Chair or Secretary will determine whether the executive session is recorded or whether minutes shall be kept. If a recording is made, the Secretary shall specify on the recording when the executive session begins and ends
- At the conclusion of the executive session, the 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 January 30, 2015.



Chair of the Board



Secretary of the University