

Meeting of the Oregon Tech Board of Trustees Academic Quality and Student Success Committee Sunset Room, Klamath Falls Campus And virtually via Microsoft Teams November 12, 2020 8:00am – 9:45am

Academic Quality and Student Success Committee MINUTES

Trustees Present:

Jeremy Brown, Chair Kathleen Hill Rose McClure (in person) Jill Mason Kelley Minty Morris (in person)

Other Trustees Present:

Tim Hasty (in person)

Michele Vitali

University Staff and Faculty Present:

Mandi Clark, Director of Housing and Residence Life Carrie Dickson, Director of Online Operations and Instructional Design Erin Foley, VP of Student Affairs/Dean of Students (in person) Dave Groff, General Counsel Franny Howes, Associate Professor of Communication Veronica Koehn, Associate Professor of Communication Iona Musgnung, Associate Director of Student Involvement and Belonging Joanna Mott, Provost/VP of Academic Affairs and Strategic Enrollment Management (in person) Troy Scevers, Associate Professor Computer Systems Engineering Technology John Van Dyke, Athletic Director Christine Ward, Online Learning Instructional Designer

Others Present:

Gabi Taylor, ASOIT official

1. Call to Order/Roll/Declaration of a Quorum Chair Brown called the meeting to order at 8:00am. The Board Secretary called roll and a quorum was declared.

2. Consent Agenda

2.1 Approve Minutes from January 23, 2020 Meeting Trustee Mason moved to approve the minutes of the January 23, 2020 meeting. Trustee Minty Morris seconded the motion. With all trustees present voting aye, the motion passed unanimously.

3. Action Items

Trustee Minty Morris volunteered to report out on the committee meeting at the Board meeting.

4. Discussion Items

4.1 Provost Update

Provost Mott gave a PowerPoint presentation identifying the challenges and opportunities facing academic affairs, including the pandemic and CARES Act funding, furloughs, union bargaining, implementation of the Strategic Plan, academic master plan creation, an update on key positions, an update on the DPT program, a review of the recently approved programs, potential new programs, scheduling improvements, faculty hiring, facility renovations, and an update on each college. **Chair Brown** requested two sets of data be shared with the committee prior to the January meeting: a comparison of proposed and actual enrollment figures for the new programs in January; and identification of the previous majors/programs of the students who moved into Cybersecurity - as total enrollment has not increased but the number of students in that major has.

4.2 Student Affairs Update

Vice President Erin Foley reviewed the written report included in the agenda. She noted there are a record number of students in on-campus housing but auxiliary revenues were down in spring and summer due to reduced fees charged to students spring term, no outside groups using campus facilities and the cancellation of all summer camps; the integrated student health center continues to serve students with remote tele-counseling and tele-medicine as well as serving as a key member of the COVID response team; there is an increase in the number of students qualified to use disability services (the number of staff in DS will not increase as a result); additional courses are being offered as supplemental instruction; staff is working to submit an annual safety/security report, a student transition support team was created at the Portland-Metro campus; a new Veteran Resource Center was established at the Portland-Metro campus; four virtual career fairs were held in Fall; and Campus Life is now Student Involvement and Belonging. Chair Brown requested information about the adoption of new technology or adaption of existing technology to assist students who need supplemental instruction as a result of remote teaching.

4.3 Fall Term University Experiences during the Pandemic

Director Dickson shared some of the challenges for students, staff and faculty transitioning to remote learning so quickly for spring term. **Student Gabi Taylor** shared her experience for fall term including quarantining twice, feeling lost, teachers seeming overwhelmed and not communicating, and the difficulty juggling on-line and in-person courses. **Director Clark** explained spring term started with 100 (rather than 500) students in the residence halls as a result of the fully remote requirement and in the fall term the residence halls accommodated a record number of 630 students. She noted the differences in the move-in, dining, and community-building experiences, and that there are rooms set aside for isolation/quarantine. Overall, the mood has been positive and students adjusted well. **Associate Professor Koehn** stated she was on the academic reopening committee and the university-wide reopening committee to make sure the students are safe and the

faculty are ready. She noted it was more difficult to teach this fall with some students remote and some in-person; she is behind schedule because extra time is required to make sure the students on Zoom are at the same place as the students in class. She complimented the students for adhering to the mask, social distancing, and cleaning protocols. **Associate Professor Scevers** stated fall term is a bit smoother with some courses being taught in person as teaching labs remotely is not that easy, advising is modified, video recording is time consuming but the cameras in the classrooms are appreciated.

Chair Brown asked if we've noticed changes in student behavior from being in a restricted environment, such as the uptick in services at ISHC. **VP Foley** explained the results of a survey sent to students in early October show the top concerns of students were financial, mental health, and work issues. She acknowledged that the pandemic is taking its toll on students, staff, and faculty; students in isolation need to keep connected not only to academics but socially. **Trustee McClure** shared frustrations knowing it could be a better experience with improved support for students. She noted increased cheating on exams and the lack of study groups was difficult for students. **Chair Brown** requested information prior to the January meeting on student success, specifically any differences in grades, the number of students on academic probation, students who were asked to leave the institution, etc., between years/terms. He thanked everyone for the amount of effort put in to guarantee the quality of education and student experience we are committed to.

Trustee Hasty shared his experience of spring term being stressful but fall term becoming more stressful as the 300 and 400 level courses are all remote. He misses the micro-interactions students have with each other on campus. The students are required to teach themselves what they don't understand – and you usually find out what you didn't know when your test is returned.

Trustee Vitali explained that at OMIC there is a benefit to the remote teaching of upperdivision courses as there are 5 students employed and because they are doing on-line courses they are able to continue to work in Scappoose; OMIC has stayed open throughout the pandemic.

4.4 Athletics Presentation

Director Van Dyke reviewed a PowerPoint presentation outlining the athletics department, recent successes, fan experience, development, community engagement, challenges, and moving forward in this year given COVID restrictions. He noted that the new soccer field helped with retention of students and the renovated facilities will help with the recruitment of students and coaches.

4.5 House Bill 2864 Presentation

Associate Professor Howes introduced herself and **Associate Director Musgnung** as the co-chairs of the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committee. They gave a presentation giving an overview of House Bill 2864's requirements that focus on cultural competency, where the university is at in meeting those requirements, and the next steps including a biennial report that will be submitted to the Board by December 31, 2020. They acknowledged that this will require culture shift and the support of the board is essential to moving forward.

5. Other Business/New Business - none

6. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 9:47am.

Respectfully submitted,

X

Sandra Fox Board Secretary