

**EASTERN OREGON UNIVERSITY
CAMPUS REPORT
OCTOBER 2016**

- **Witte named Provost.** Sarah Witte, Associate Professor of English and former Interim Provost, was named the permanent Provost after a national search June 2016.
- **Academic reorganization.** The administration is currently obtaining consultation regarding a 'new' Science, Math and Technology college, along with a 'new' Humanities and Social Science college. This would necessitate the dissolution of the existing College of Arts and Sciences, and approval by EOU Board of Trustees. The implications for shared governance are unclear but, at a minimum, would require a serious overhaul of campus constitution, college bylaws (which have generally been ignored by administration) along with faculty senate reapportionment to mirror the new structure. EOU Faculty Senate has asked for my time to solicit feedback from constituents,
- **Rise in number of administrators.** A spate of new hires has been announced over the last several months, including a former colleague from the President's former employer, Boise Cascade, who was hired as (a consultant contractor) Director of Institutional Transformation and Capital Projects Manager, despite having no higher education experience. A number of other administrators have been hired, several under the auspices of a TRIO grant, and it is uncertain what the duration of their employment will be.
- **VPSA Search.** A search is being conducted for a new Vice President of Student Affairs. 43 applications were received. The former occupant of the position left under apparently dubious circumstances "effective immediately". The Hiring Manager re EOU President attends all search committee meetings, and despite a claim of "trusting" the committee, has intervened in the process with his preferred (and not preferred) candidates. Given the number of direct reports on the Committee, there is concern the Hiring Manager's presence during committee deliberations results in a 'chilling effect' re: lack of forthright and honest conversation, especially from his subordinates.
- **Demise of Dental Hygiene Program.** MODA has discontinued their Dental Hygiene program in La Grande, as "supply and demand did not financially balance" for MODA.
- **Board of Trustees Appointments.** New faculty and classified staff members were named to the Board of Trustees. Both were former union officials.
- **Tuition.** The EOU Board of Trustees approved a 3.9% tuition increase for AY 2016-17. In addition to the tuition increase, students are being assessed a Building Fee (as per ORS 351.170) of \$45 per academic term to finance debt service on Article XI-1(F) bonds, and a \$28 Hoke Special Renovation Fee to support debt service payment.
- **Collective Bargaining.** An agreement has been reached in principle between the administration and AAP. Provisions include (1) \$ a 2,500 salary increase for all .5 or greater employees as of 9/15/16, (2) \$1,600 and \$1,000 salary increases effective 9/15/17 and 9/15/18, respectively (3) Step increases each of the three years of the contract, (4) No cost of living increases, (5) EOU continues to pay 95% of health care premiums, (6) Minimize "flipping" of courses from inload to overload, (7) Definition of "casual employees" i.e. on-site employee .50 FTE or less, and (8) Creation of Task Forces to address intellectual property, overload, the creation of a 'load bank', and "parity". The agreement is subject to ratification by the EOU Board of Trustees at their November 2016 meeting.