OSU Board of Trustees 101

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Oregon State University
In the Beginning …

Responsible to the citizens of Oregon

Oregon University System (OUS)

EOU  OIT  OSU  PSU  SOU  WOU  UO
Then, in 2013, along came SB 270
(all 117 pages of it!)

1. Each of the seven public universities will have its own Board of Trustees.

2. Each Board will have 11-15 members.

3. Those members include one from the staff, one from the students, and one from the faculty.

4. Each member’s term is 4 years, except for the three members from the university, who each have a 2-year term.

5. *Board members represent the citizens of Oregon, not their individual constituencies.*

6. Each Board member can serve, at most, two consecutive full terms.

7. The university nominates more than enough potential Board members and sends the list on to the Governor.

8. The Governor selects from that list and passes her selection along to the Oregon Senate Executive Appointments committee for approval.

9. The Oregon Senate makes the final approval of the Governor’s selection(s).
Now

Responsible to the citizens of Oregon
“Why I Want This Position”

Per FS Bylaws, the Faculty Member on the Board of Trustees is automatically an ex-officio non-voting member of the Faculty Senate.
Board Meeting Process

The Board meets 4 times per year (legislation specifies this, too), typically for two full days.

The Board has three subcommittees: Academic Strategies, Executive & Audit, and Finance & Administration.

There are subcommittee meetings on Thursday and the full Board meeting on Friday.

All full-Board and Board subcommittee meetings are subject to Oregon’s Open Meetings Law: widely announced ahead of time, open to the public -- both in-person and via phone. There is a very strict definition of what is a “meeting”.

There can be subcommittee meetings in-between the quarterly meetings, usually by conference call. They, too, are open.

Full-Board meetings and the on-campus subcommittee meetings are held in the MU Horizon Room.

At the meetings, there are multiple opportunities for public comments.
Current Issues

Tuition

Financials: State budget, current OSU budget, 10-year financial forecast

Student Success

Risk / Compliance
Tuition Issues to be Aware Of

Tuition provides ~70% of OSU’s revenue.

With inflation, flat state funding is essentially a 2-3% ‘cut’. How to make that up?

PERS and PEBB increases are essentially unfunded mandates from the state.

Percent of in-state students vs. out-of-state is currently ~73%-27%; it is allowed by the Board to go to 67%-33% or maybe even 60%-40%; but, (1) what is our responsibility to the citizens of Oregon?, and (2) you can’t just throw a switch to make the change.

Can we/should we cut into OSU’s Fund Balance? (OSU tries to hold a 10% fund balance.)

The Fund Balance is not actually a Fund Balance.

OSU’s Moody’s credit rating affects our borrowing interest rate, and is affected by many things, including our Fund Balance. Everything seems to be connected here.

Can we /should we be cutting significant expenses? Where? Most of OSU’s expenses are personnel-related.
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This is all public information – there is nothing “secret” here