



**Oregon State
University**

Faculty Senate Research Council
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April 30, 2019

Ms. Rani Borkar
Chair, OSU Board of Trustees
Mr. Darry Callahan
Chair, Presidential Search Committee
638 Kerr Administration Building
Corvallis, OR 97331

Dear Ms. Borkar and Mr. Callahan:

In our capacity as members of the Research Council, we are writing to provide a research perspective on the search for OSU's next president. The Research Council is a standing committee of the Faculty Senate and is responsible for providing advice and assistance to the office of the Vice President for Research about matters pertaining to OSU research and scholarship.

We believe it is vital for OSU's next president to have experience with, and value, academic research and scholarship at the highest levels, for three reasons.

First, the significant success of OSU's research enterprise contributes to the national and international reputation of the University. Our research reputation in turn attracts outstanding students and faculty, donors, and external support from agencies and foundations. OSU faculty and research programs are known nationally and internationally for their quality and innovation, and we believe it is extremely important to maintain and expand this reputation.



Second, the research enterprise has significant financial benefits to both the University and the State of Oregon. As you no doubt know, OSU researchers raised an average of over \$400 million per year in external funding in the last two fiscal years. In addition to the economic benefits of basic and applied research discoveries, these funds support the costs of operating research laboratories and facilities, and directly support the salaries of many faculty, both undergraduate and graduate students, postdoctoral researchers, and technical staff, thus impacting the local economies around our campuses and the State of Oregon as a whole. To maintain this research success OSU leadership must continue to value and nurture the research enterprise.

Third, success in research has a direct impact on OSU students. OSU's numerous laboratories, research groups, field sites, ships, and off campus research programs provide significant opportunities for undergraduates and graduate students to be involved in cutting edge research that makes OSU unique. In our experience OSU faculty take pride in involving undergraduates in their research programs and recognize how much value can be added to an undergraduate degree by doing so.

President Ray has been an enthusiastic supporter of OSU faculty research. While we recognize that the search for his replacement must balance many priorities, we strongly believe that recruiting the future OSU president with an exemplary strong track record of success in research and scholarship is extremely important for OSU's future. We therefore strongly encourage the Board of Trustees to make experience with, and support for, research excellence a high priority as you review applicants for the position of OSU's next president.

Sincerely,

Undersigned members of the OSU Faculty Senate Research Council



Ed Brook

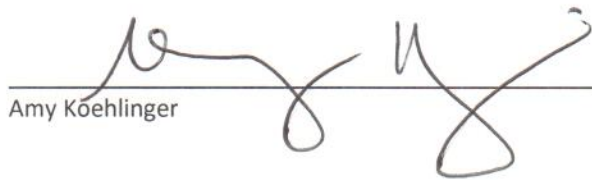
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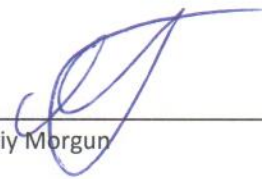
Amy Koehlinger



Siva Kolluri



Katie Linder

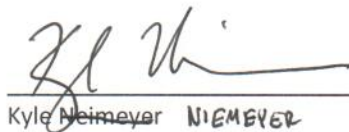


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