

**From:** Inform-c07 <[inform-c07-bounces@lists.oregonstate.edu](mailto:inform-c07-bounces@lists.oregonstate.edu)> **On Behalf Of** Trustees

**Sent:** Monday, April 12, 2021 3:28 PM

**Subject:** [Inform-c07] Board of Trustees announces university forum with recommended nominee for interim president

April 12, 2021

Dear Oregon State University Community Members

As the next step in the interim president selection process, I invite you to an open forum on Wednesday, April 14, from 3 to 4 p.m. with the final recommended nominee for interim president, who Board Chair Rani Borkar will announce tomorrow.

The open forum will provide an opportunity for Chair Borkar to introduce the nominee and provide an update on the interim nomination process. The nominee will make a few remarks and take questions from forum participants. Information about the forum is available on the [university forum webpage](#).

Feedback on the nominee can be made until 5 p.m. on April 15 at the above webpage. Your feedback will be shared with the OSU Board of Trustees in advance of the Board meeting on April 16 to consider the interim president appointment.

Board Chair Borkar appointed me last month to serve as her delegate to conduct the nomination and community engagement process for the interim president. You will recall that naming an interim president is the second phase of a three-phase process to select a permanent president over the next several months. The first phase was completed when the Board of Trustees named Provost and Executive Vice President Edward Feser as Acting President on March 23.

My thanks to those of you who contributed through the webpage feedback form and those who met with me in the more than 50 one-on-one meetings I held over the past two weeks. I am pleased with the enthusiastic participation of so many.

I welcome your engagement in Wednesday's university forum and the April 16 Board of Trustees meeting. At the board meeting, trustees will take additional public input before considering the appointment of the recommended nominee as interim president. Further information on the Board meeting will be available [at this webpage](#).

Thank you for your many contributions to Oregon State University and for engaging in this important process to consider the university's interim leadership.

Sincerely,  
Patty Bedient  
Trustee  
Oregon State University

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**From:** Trustees  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 8, 2021 12:15 PM  
**Subject:** Update on efforts to identify and appoint an interim president

April 8, 2021

Dear Oregon State University Community Members,

As promised, I write to provide an update on the steps the Board of Trustees is taking to identify and appoint an interim president.

There are three stages occurring in the process to find a permanent president. The first was the March 23 appointment of Provost and Executive Vice President Ed Feser to serve briefly as acting president until an interim president is named. The second, which is underway now, is the process to appoint an interim president to serve until a permanent president is named. The third stage is the full presidential search process. The Board will share the approach and timeline for the permanent presidential search after the appointment of the interim president and further consultations with the OSU community.

Board Chair Rani Borkar asked me to serve as her delegate in conducting the nomination and community engagement process for the interim president appointment. These efforts began with the March 29 launch of a [new webpage](#) summarizing the process. Since that time, many of you have enthusiastically provided feedback on the needed areas of focus for the interim president, as well as nominations of those you would like to be considered. There is still an opportunity for you to submit suggestions on the Board of Trustees website before noon tomorrow. The Board is grateful for your active engagement and advice.

Over the past week and a half, I have been meeting with OSU Faculty Senate leaders, staff, student leaders, administrators, university partners and other stakeholders to gather nominations and input on the focus and experience needed in the interim president. To date, I have held more than 50 one-on-one conversations and reviewed the comments submitted through the Board of Trustees webpage. My next step is to go over the feedback and nominations with a committee of trustees and OSU community members convened by the Board Chair to help her evaluate the nominations. More information about the committee will be posted on the interim president webpage soon.

The survey feedback and conversations indicate that OSU community members and stakeholders want an interim president who knows the university well and supports its strategic plan, vision, and current initiatives, and who is committed to shared governance. We are fortunate to have many strong leaders who fit this description. Many have stressed the need for an experienced individual who is able to engender trust and confidence within the university community as we conduct a search for a permanent president. It is likely the interim president will serve for approximately one year.

While many have nominated Acting President Ed Feser and President Emeritus Ed Ray, neither are candidates for the interim post. Acting President Feser has made it clear that he would prefer to return to his role as OSU provost and executive vice president while President Emeritus Ed Ray has argued that the university should tap other talented leaders, rather than stepping back into the role himself.

Based upon the feedback received thus far, we will be scheduling a university forum with the recommended final nominee. The university forum will provide community members with an opportunity to hear from the finalist, and to provide additional input to the Board of Trustees on the finalist's qualifications. While a great many I have consulted have shared that they do not want the Board to deliberate any longer than necessary, the Board remains committed to an inclusive and transparent process. Under our current timeline, the Board expects to conclude the consideration and selection of an interim president in a public meeting of the Board within the next two weeks.

It is the Board of Trustees' goal to work together with the entire university community to maintain the positive momentum at Oregon State University that we have built over many years. I look forward to working with you further to advance OSU as one of the nation's

leading land grant research universities, expanding its positive impact throughout Oregon, the nation and the world.

Sincerely,  
Patty Bedient  
Member, OSU Board of Trustees

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**From:** Trustees

**Sent:** Monday, March 29, 2021 4:05 PM

**Subject:** OSU Trustees announce process to gather nominations for interim president

Oregon State University Community Members,

The OSU Board of Trustees recognizes that the last few weeks have been challenging for all members of the university community. As we begin a process to appoint an interim university president, the community's engagement is very important.

Following the resignation of King Alexander, Board Chair Rani Borkar has asked me to lead the process of soliciting nominations for the interim president. I encourage you to visit a [new webpage](#) on the Board of Trustees website to provide input on the scope of the interim president position and provide names of individuals who might be considered.

We plan to solicit nominations through April 9, 2021. I also will reach out to a broad range of OSU academic and administrative leaders, Faculty Senate leadership, student leaders and other university stakeholders to engage them in the nomination process. Given the urgency in making an interim appointment, the Board will schedule a public meeting shortly after the close of the nomination period to consider and act on an appointment.

The schedule for the nomination and appointment process will be provided on the webpage following discussion at the April 2, 2021, meeting of the Board of Trustees. The webpage also will feature regular updates on the process and a set of frequently asked questions.

Later, a separate webpage will be launched regarding the search process for the university's next permanent president. I assure you that the Board of Trustees has heard the concerns about the 2019 search and will promptly undertake a review of that process and incorporate lessons learned.

The Board looks forward to receiving your nominations for an interim president and advice on the permanent search process.

Sincerely,  
Patty Bedient  
Trustee  
Oregon State University