Minutes

Board Members Present: Swati Adarkar, Erica Bestpitch, Gale Castillo, Sho Dozono, Maria Carolina Gonzalez-Prats, Maude Hines, Thomas Imeson, Margaret Kirkpatrick, Irving Levin, Rick Miller, Peter Stott, Christine Vernier, Chair Pete Nickerson and President Wim Wiewel (ex-officio, non-voting).

Board Member(s) Not Present: Fariborz Maseeh

1. Call to Order/Roll/ Declaration of Quorum

   Chair Nickerson called the meeting to Order at 1:09 pm. Roll was taken, a quorum was present, and the meeting proceeded.

2. Open Comment

   The following individuals spoke to the Board for three minutes each: Oliva Pace shared concerns regarding campus public safety; Nicole Stroup, President of AFSCME addressed Aramark’s minimum wage for contract employees; and Bobby Zaman shared concerns regarding campus public safety and guns on campus.

3. Opening Comments and Reports

   a. Comments from Gina Greco, Presiding Officer of the Portland State Faculty Senate

      Greco provided a brief overview of issues related to faculty interaction with Human Resources and concerns regarding Human Resources' ability to produce a list of hire dates for tenured professors.

   b. Report from the President

      The President updated the Board regarding enrollment numbers. Enrollment numbers for Summer Term 2015 are as follows:

      - Headcount is down 3% from last summer
Preliminary numbers for Fall Term 2015 are as follows:

- Headcount is 10,254, up 232 or up 1%
- Student credit hours (SCH): is 239,495, up 5,427 or 0.7%
- Non-Resident SCH is up 12.2%
- Resident SCH is down 2.3%

Overall applications are up 12% and admission are up 20% from last fall. Enrollment has increased from out-of-state freshmen and transfer students. PSU’s diversity enrollment remains strong.

PSU’s Student Affairs received renewal of a US Department of Education $1.7 million, five-year grant. This grant is earmarked for continued support of disadvantaged, first generation, low-income, and disabled students.

The hiring process for a new position of “Sexual/Relationship Violence Prevention Coordinator” has commenced. Part of the coordinator role will be education and prevention.

On September 15, 2015, PSU will become a smoke- and tobacco-free campus.

The Office of Academic Affairs is pleased to announce that the graduate application process is now online.

The following new academic programs have been approved: Bachelor of Fine Arts in Creative Writing was approved by the HECC in August 2015; a minor in Child & Family Studies was recommended by the Faculty Senate in June 2015; and the Professional Science Master (PSM) in Environmental Science and Management was approved by the HECC in May 2015.

The University’s seven-year accreditation site visit will take place in October 2015.

PSU now has a signed Memorandum of Understanding with Pacific University for a 3+2 Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering and a 3+2 Bachelor of Science in Environmental Engineering. Students will begin these programs at Pacific University and finish at PSU.

In June 2015, the PGE-PSU Partnership had its five year review meeting and highlighted some of its key accomplishments. There were 26 sponsored researched projects since 2010 totaling $730,000. The focus areas of the research projects included smart grid, renewable power, grid reliability, and electric vehicles. Eight capstone projects involving 32 students valued $250,000. The partnership included a highly successful four-year “Electric Avenue” demonstration project.

Intel collaborated with CLAS and Strategic Partnership and held a hiring event for recent graduates from the sciences and hired up to 80% of all PSU students interviewed.
The Innovation Quadrant collaborated with staff from OHSU, PCC, OMSI, and PSU on the opening of the Tillicum Crossing Bridge. This provides visibility and greater accessibility to campus from SE Portland.

In compliance with the Implementation Advisory Committee on Campus Public Safety, on July 1, 2015 the Campus Public Safety Office deployed its first police officers: one sergeant, two police officers, and one police detective. Officers are utilizing Axiom body cameras and a data management system is in place.

The Stott Center Renovation Project is nearing the end of the schematic design phase. The center is expected to be a 3,000 seat multi-purpose event venue, adding approximately 5,000 square feet. The center will be open to all students, not just athletes. Groundbreaking is scheduled for spring 2016 and project completion is anticipated by spring 2018.

The School of Business Project is underway. Design review approval was received in August and construction began in August. The ceremonial groundbreaking is scheduled for October 15. Project completion anticipated by August 2017.

The Neuberger Hall Renovation Project received $60 million in state bonds approved by the legislature at the end of the legislative session. PSU is committed to provide $10 million through philanthropy. A design team will be hired in the winter of 2016.

The Oregon Public Universities lobbied together effectively during the 2015 legislative session and $700 million was appropriated to the universities. Although this appropriation reflects a 25% increase from last year, it does not restore the universities to pre-recession funding levels. Nonetheless, this was the most successful single session for higher education in decades. In addition, the HECC has approved a new funding formula based, in part, on outcomes. The formula awards diversity, service of underrepresented students, and graduation outcomes, and benefits PSU.

The President’s Council held a retreat recently. Cooperation and collaboration within the Council is extremely important. The council is expected to formalize itself this year.

Carmen Suarez joined PSU as Chief Diversity Officer on September 8, 2015.

October 22 through October 31, University Communications will launch Portland State of Mind. During these nine days, nearly 60 events are expected to draw thousands to PSU, including the Simon Benson Awards Dinner with speaker Arianna Huffington of the Huffington Post. In November, we will be launching a multimedia marketing campaign to promote PSU. This effort will set the stage for the next capital campaign, increase visibility, and bolster university reputation and student recruitment.
The PSU Vikings football team made PSU proud by winning 24-17 over Washington State University. There are five home football games scheduled for this fall. Athletics is working to be engaged with deans and faculty by recognizing academic accomplishments at home games.

SEIU has reached agreement with all seven Universities. AAUP and AFT labor negotiations are moving forward utilizing the Interested-Based Bargaining model.

Finally, PSU ranked 16th in the top 20 US News and World Report for “Most Innovative Schools.” PSU is the only school in Oregon to make this list.

4. Consent Agenda

a. Approval of the minutes from the June 11, 2015 meeting
b. Approval of the minutes from the July 31, 2015 special meeting

ACTION: Stott moved to approve the minutes. Dozono seconded. The vote was unanimous. The motion passed.

5. Reports of Standing Committees of the Board

a. Executive and Audit Committee

Chair Nickerson reported that the Executive and Audit Committee met on August 26, 2015. The committee discussed the evaluation of the President for 2014-15. All committee members were present, along with two other trustees. The committee was unanimous in its support for President Wiewel. Successes were cited and opportunities were discussed. The committee has now completed its first full presidential review. The President’s Goals for 2015-16 are on the agenda and will be addressed by the full Board at this meeting.

b. Academic and Student Affairs Committee

Margaret Kirkpatrick, Chair of the Academic and Student Affairs Committee, reported that the committee met on July 7, 2015. The committee approved Bachelor of Arts/Bachelor of Science in Applied Health and Fitness and Bachelor of Fine Arts in Creative Writing programs.

c. Finance and Administration Committee

Rick Miller, Chair of the Finance and Administration Committee, reported that the committee met on September 2, 2015. The committee received budget updates including a preliminary summer enrollment report, FY15 Year-End Budget to Actual Report, and a cash flow forecast. Chair Miller stated the University is in a far superior financial position than last year. The University expects to end the fiscal year with a modest cash gain, rather than a cash loss, due to improved state funding, the new HECC formula for distribution of funds, underspent budgets in
departments, and increased grant funding. The University is in a position to maintain Public University Fund minimum cash requirements. The committee has begun discussions regarding the need for a reserves policy. The committee was presented with a report of the student payment plan implemented in 2014. This payment plan provides no interest accrual if payments are made. This successful program has a 99% collection rate. The committee has set a goal to develop a financial dashboard during the next year.

6. Executive Session

At 2:09 pm Chair Nickerson announced the Board would move into executive session pursuant to ORS 192.660(2)(i), to review and evaluate the employment-related performance of the chief executive officer of the University, and ORS 192.660(2)(f), to consider information or records that are exempt by law from public inspection. The Board Secretary read the script recommended by the Attorney General’s Public Meetings Manual, advised that media were not permitted to report on any matters discussed during the executive session, and asked members of the media to identify themselves by signing the Executive Session Media Sign-in Sheet. At 2:56 pm Chair Nickerson announced that the executive session was concluded and the public meeting reconvened.

7. Action Items

a. Approval of President Wiewel’s Annual Goals

President Wiewel discussed his goals for 2015-16 and beyond and answered clarifying questions. Rick Miller suggested that operating within the approved budget be added to the one-year goals.

ACTION: Castillo moved to approve the President’s Annual Goals with the inclusion of operating within the approved budget added to the one-year goals. Stott seconded. The vote was unanimous. The motion passed.

8. Discussion Items

a. Strategic Plan

President Wiewel updated the Board regarding strategic planning. He discussed the Strategic Clarity document and explained the structure and methodology of the background, objectives, initiatives, and equity lens considerations contained in the Goals and Initiatives. The board’s committees will be asked to consider elements of the Plan during committee meetings in the fall and the full Board will have opportunity to further discuss the plan in November. It is anticipated that the Strategic Plan will be brought to the December Board meeting for approval.

Wiewel encouraged the Board to accept the Plan as a first step. It is expected the Plan will be modified and be further developed as we continue to evaluate and set
goals and establish initiatives. Some of the goals are difficult to measure, but continued progress towards the goals is important.

b. Introduction to Interest-Based Bargaining Process

AAUP President Pam Miller, Vice Provost Shelly Chabon, and PSUFA President Kelly Cowan provided an overview of the interest-based bargaining process. The structure of meetings and team participants were explained. This process is a negotiation strategy in which all parties collaborate to find win-win solutions. This strategy focuses on developing mutually beneficial agreement based on the interests of all stakeholders. This process has been a positive for PSU. The panel stated they were optimistic about their accomplishments.

c. Orientation Session: College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

Dean Karen Marrongelle provided an introduction to the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences (CLAS). CLAS provides the foundation of a university education, with disciplines in the natural sciences, social sciences, and humanities and has more than 35 academic departments and centers and houses two interdisciplinary schools: the School of the Environment and the School of Gender, Race, and Nations. CLAS delivers specialized training to students and prepares them with essential skills in critical thinking, problem solving, quantitative and qualitative analysis, communication, and intercultural competence, all while connecting their classroom learning with the Portland Metro community.

Chair Nickerson asked for information about how much other colleges of liberal arts and science fundraise annually at local and regional universities. On October 8, 2015, Dean Marrongelle provided the requested information, which is attached.

d. HECC Evaluation of University with Governing Boards

Ben Cannon, Executive Director of the Oregon Higher Education Coordinating Commission (HECC), spoke about the HECC’s role and plans regarding evaluation of the University. Cannon stated the HECC had just adopted the University Evaluation Process and Framework. The HECC will be working with various stakeholders to receive feedback as part of the evaluation. Although statute mandates the HECC evaluate Universities, the question will now become: ‘what do we do with the information?’

9. Adjourn

Chair Nickerson adjourned the meeting at 4:46 p.m.