Minutes

Board Members Present: Swati Adarkar (by phone), Erica Bestpitch (by phone), Gale Castillo (by phone), Sho Dozono, Maude Hines, Thomas Imeson (by phone), Margaret Kirkpatrick (by phone), Rick Miller (by phone), Stephanie Shao (by phone), Lindsay Stewart (by phone), Peter Stott (by phone), Christine Vernier (by phone), Chair Nickerson, and President Wiewel (ex-officio)

Board Members Not Present: Irving Levin

The meeting was webcast.

1. Call to Order/Roll/ Declaration of Quorum

Chair Nickerson called the meeting to order at 8:32AM. Roll was taken, a quorum was present, and the meeting proceeded.

2. Resolution Amending 2017-18 Tuition Rates in the Event of Additional State Funding

President Wiewel reminded the Board that on April 11, 2017, it approved a Resolution Concerning 2017-18 Tuition Rates. The Tuition Resolution established, among other things, a resident undergraduate base tuition rate for the 2017-18 academic year and 2018 summer term of $170 per credit, which is an increase of $14 per credit or 8.97% over the previous year. Together with mandatory enrollment fees, the overall increase for a resident undergraduate student taking 15 credits per term is 8.31%. The budget assumptions used by the Board when setting 2017-18 tuition rates included a state appropriation to the Public University Support Fund for the 2017-19 biennium of $667 million, which was the amount provided in the Governor’s Recommended Budget.

The Board stated, on the record, that it would revise the approved resident undergraduate tuition rate downward in the event of significantly greater funding from the State of Oregon. The Board has a history of reducing resident undergraduate tuition increases when the State of Oregon provides greater funding than had been assumed in the budgeting process.

Under ORS 352.102, an increase in tuition and mandatory enrollment fees for resident undergraduate students greater than 5% annually requires approval of the Higher Education Coordinating Commission or the Legislative Assembly. On May 11, 2017, the HECC considered, but did not approve, the proposed resident undergraduate tuition rate. One of the concerns raised regarding the tuition proposal is that it does not specify the reduction in tuition that would occur at various levels of state funding. Other universities had specified reductions and the Governor, in a
letter received after the Board’s vote, specifically asked for information regarding such reductions. The Resolution before the Board provides for specific reductions in the tuition increase in response to those questions. The Resolution reduces the increase in tuition for resident undergraduate students by one percent for every additional $20 million dollars of unrestricted funds appropriated to the Public University Support Fund for the 2017-19 biennium. This is consistent with the approach taken by other universities and is consistent with the balanced approach that this Board has taken. It is also consistent with the approach taken two years ago, when this Board reduced its previously-approved tuition increase after the Legislative Assembly appropriated greater funds to Oregon’s public universities. The University has requested reconsideration by the HECC and the HECC has scheduled a special meeting for that purpose on May 25, 2017.

Vice President Kevin Reynolds explained that the resolution steps-down tuition based on increased state funding and does not take a sliding scale approach. Trustee Kirkpatrick asked for a comparison to the budget recommendations of the Co-Chairs of the Ways and Means Committee; Reynolds indicated that the Co-Chairs budget would provide $683 million to the public universities. Chair Nickerson asked about the timing of the legislative budget; President Wiewel indicated that a final budget is anticipated in early July.

Trustee Dozono asked what issues were raised by the HECC. President Wiewel responded that some HECC members were particularly concerned about student involvement in the development of tuition proposals and that some also sought greater information regarding the impact of further reductions to university budgets.

ACTION: Trustee Dozono moved that the Board approve the Resolution Amending 2017-18 Tuition Rates in the Event of Additional State Funding. Trustee Vernier seconded. A roll call vote was taken. The Motion was adopted unanimously.

3. **Adjourn**

Chair Nickerson adjourned the meeting at 8:52 AM.