Minutes

**Board Members Present:** Erica Bestpitch, Gale Castillo, Sho Dozono, Gregory Hinckley, Maude Hines, Margaret Kirkpatrick, Irving Levin, Pete Nickerson, Lindsay Stewart, Christine Vernier, Chair Miller, and President Shoureshi (ex-officio)

**Board Members Not Present:** Thomas Imeson, Stephanie Shao, and Peter Stott

The meeting was webcast.

1. **Call to Order/Roll/Declaration of Quorum**

   Chair Miller called the meeting to order at 9:09 am. Roll was taken, a quorum was present, and the meeting proceeded.

2. **Open Comment**

   No individuals signed up for open comment.

3. **Opening Comments and Reports**

   a. **Comments from Presiding Officer of the Portland State University Faculty Senate**

      Professor Michael Clark made comments about the Faculty Senate’s themes for the 2017-18 Academic Year. The focus themes are Liberal Education Task Force, Status of Strategic Plan, Academic Quality, Advising/Retention/Degree Completion, Online Education, Faculty/Administration Collaboration, and Government Relations and Support. Professor Clark reiterated faculty concerns regarding HB 2998 (with relates to the transfer of community college credits to public universities) and other legislative infringements on academic matters.

   b. **Comments from the Associated Students of Portland State University**

      ASPSU President Brent Finkbeiner and Vice President Donald Thompson III highlighted some the activities of the following committees: Legislative Affairs, Student Life, University Affairs, and Multicultural Affairs.

      Trustee Kirkpatrick thanked them for a comprehensive report.
Chair Miller asked if there are any outstanding issues ASPSU has brought to the Board that haven’t been addressed.

Trustee Castillo expressed her appreciation for the collaborative approach taken by ASPSU leadership.

4. President’s Report

President Shoureshi provided an enrollment update. Summer Term headcount and student credit hours were down 4.4%. Fall Term headcount was down a more modest amount: approximately 1%. However, new freshmen enrollment is up significantly (1,887 new freshmen, which is a 21% increase), including a 40% increase in new resident freshmen.

Portland State is again, for the third year in a row, among U.S. News and World Report’s Most Innovative Universities, along with universities such as Stanford, MIT, Duke and the University of Michigan. PSU is also now ranked within the top 300 national universities by U.S. News and World Report.

In addition, PSU’s School of Social Work is #1 in the country in Social Work research according to the National Science Foundation and PSU’s School of Art + Design has been named among the top 15 arts programs in the nation, along with schools such as Columbia, Yale and Rutgers.

PSU is expanding its marketing and branding efforts with a regular presence at Portland International Airport. Starting in December, advertisements promoting PSU’s ranking as a Top Ten Most Innovative University will rotate with advertisements promoting the Maseeh College of Engineering and Computer Science and the Maseeh Department of Mathematics and Statistics.

The President highlighted several significant faculty accomplishments:

- Professor Mark Weislogel (Engineering) and his students launched five high altitude balloons to capture the solar eclipse. Soon after the balloon launch, he was selected to receive the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics Space Processing Award for 2017.
- Professor Micki Caskey and Dr. Maria Tenorio (Education) were awarded a $1.2 million grant from the US Department of Education Office of Indian Education to recruit and prepare Native American students from our region to teach. This is the third such grant received by GSE in six years.
- DesignMedix Inc., a Portland-based biotech company cofounded by PSU Chemistry Professor David Peyton received funding from the NIH sponsoring the phase 1 clinical trial of the company’s malaria drug at Duke Clinical Research Institute. Peyton and colleagues developed the drug compounds at PSU. In addition to the clinical trial agreement, the NIH has awarded DesignMedix roughly $9M in grants since the company was founded in 2006. DesignMedix has raised an additional $3M from angel investors.
- Professor Tami Lasseter Clare (Chemistry) received a $1M grant from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation supporting the establishment of a Pacific Northwestern Consortium for the Science of Cultural Heritage Conservation. The grant will provide museums in the
Northwest and Alaska access to the resources and expertise of PSU conservation scientists and will result in the production of educational, and scholarly materials through the Regional Laboratory for the Science of Cultural Heritage Conservation, which Lasseter Clare directs. The five participating museums include: the Seattle Art Museum, Portland Art Museum, Alaska State Museum, University of Washington Libraries, and the Jordan Schnitzer Museum of Art at the University of Oregon.

- Research Assistant Professor Melissa Lucash (Geography) recently received a $1.4 million grant from the NSF to assess regional impacts of increasing fire frequency on carbon dynamics and species composition in the boreal forest. The study will train graduate students and involve Native American high school students from the Rural Alaska Honors Institute (RAHI) in fieldwork. The investigators will collaborate with Your World Rocks (YWR), a nonprofit organization of female scientists and engineers dedicated to promoting science education in elementary schools, to conduct free hands-on activities in elementary schools in the greater Portland/Vancouver metro area.

- Arts and Social Practice Professor Harrell Fletcher and Associate Professor/Director Pat Boas (Art + Design) were among five artists chosen from a pool of 166 applicants for a 2017 Hallie Ford Fellowship in the Visual Arts. The fellowships recognize Oregon visual artists for demonstrated excellence of their work and potential for significant advancement in their practices of art. Each artist receives a $25,000 unrestricted award.

- Professor Peter Dusicka (Civil & Environmental Engineering) and Associate Professor Corey Griffin (Architecture) received $410K from the NSF to develop and test core wall and floor systems to enable the construction of seismically resilient high-rise buildings built with sustainably produced cross laminated timber.

- Associate Professor Raul Boyan Cal (Mechanical Engineering) received $343K from the NSF to conduct research that will improve our knowledge of the interactions between forest canopies and the atmosphere; new discoveries could impact weather modeling, hydrological modeling, climate change research, and our understanding of forest ecology.

- Associate Professor Gerasimos Fergadiotis (Speech and Hearing Sciences) received a $419K NIH grant to develop new tools to assess, evaluate and diagnose persons affected by aphasia--the loss of ability to understand and express speech caused by brain damage. This project is in partnership with the VA Pittsburgh Healthcare System.

- Assistant Professor Rahul Raghavana (Biology) received $445K from the NIH to study the basic biology of a pathogen associated with Q fever. Discoveries could lead to the development of new treatments for the disease.

- Assistant Professor Steve Reichow (Chemistry) received $1.8M from the NIH to study proteins associated with cell-to-cell communication. This study could provide information critical to the development of targeted therapies for diseases such as blindness, deafness, arrhythmia, stroke and cancer.

- Professor Ken Stedman (Biology) received $542K from NASA to study a recently discovered group of viruses with unique properties that could help us understand the origins of life.

- Assistant Professor Holly Lawson (Special Education) received $438K from the US Dept. of Education to develop an eLearning platform to help users of braille make the transition from an older form of braille to the recently implemented Unified English Braille system.

- Assistant Research Professor Dora Raymaker (Regional Research Institute for Human Services) received $417K from the NIH to study what helps autistic people succeed in the workplace and develop materials to help people with autism improve professional outcomes.
Assistant Professor Dara Shifrer (Sociology) received an $877K CAREER award from the NSF to explore how race, socioeconomic status, and disabilities may have an impact on students’ success in STEM education.

Eighty-three President’s Equal Access Scholarships have been awarded for the 2017-18 academic year, which nearly doubles the number awarded last year. These awards are made possible from contributions at the Simon Benson Award Dinner and a matching contribution from the Maybelle Clark Macdonald Fund.

The Portland State Chamber Choir won the Grand Prize at the largest choral festival in Asia this summer. They have now won choral competitions on three continents.

The President then described the opportunities he sees for Portland State, using the acronym ASCENDing PSU:

Access and Affordability
Scholarship and Creative Works
Capacity and Infrastructure
Engagements
National Recognition and Rankings
Development

5. Reports of Standing Committees of the Board

a. Executive & Audit Committee

Rick Miller, Chair of the Executive and Audit Committee, reported that the committee met on September 6, 2017. The committee received an Internal Audit Update. The number of committee meetings will increase during 2017-18 in order to support the transition of the new President.

b. Academic and Student Affairs Committee

Margaret Kirkpatrick, Chair of the Academic and Student Affairs Committee, reported that the next committee meeting is scheduled for October 6, 2017 at 2 p.m.

c. Finance and Administration Committee

Irving Levin, Chair of the Finance and Administration Committee, reported that the committee met on September 6, 2017. The Committee has established a strong structure and reporting format. The committee has a work plan for the next year. The committee will continue to provide oversight on financial matters, with a focus on revenues and costs. The committee intends to think about tuition in a framework of several years, not just for the next academic year.
The Committee heard a update on enrollment and budget-to-actual results. At the end of FY 2017, the University had added $12.4 million to central and operating reserves. The committee heard a presentation on the Public University Fund portfolio and investment performance, and approved revisions to the debt management policy.

Regarding capital projects, Dan Zalkow reported on the status of the 4th and Montgomery Project, which will be a partnership of PSU, OHSU, PCC and the City of Portland. PSU also expects to enter into an agreement with Tri-Met for a parcel on the corner of SW 4th and Lincoln.

6. Consent Agenda

   a. Approval of Minutes from the June 22, 2017 Meeting
   b. Approval of Minutes from the July 21, 2017 Meeting

ACTION: Hines made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. Bestpitch seconded. The Motion was adopted unanimously.

7. Action Item

   a. Revisions to the Debt Management Policy

Vice President Kevin Reynolds explained changes to the Debt Management Policy. The Finance and Administration Committee unanimously recommends the Board adopt the revisions to the Debt Management Policy.

ACTION: Nickerson made a motion to adopt the revisions to the Debt Management Policy. Stewart seconded. The Motion was adopted unanimously.

8. Discussion Items

   a. Board and Committee Processes

Chair Miller will hold off until a future time to discuss board and committee processes.

   b. PSU Foundation: Goals and Activities for the upcoming year and alignment with the University

PSUF President and CEO Bill Boldt discussed the Foundation’s goals and activities and alignment with the University. Please see the PowerPoint Presentation for the September 14, 2017 Meeting for additional details.

9. Meeting Review and Action Plans

The Executive and Audit Committee will gather information regarding the impact of a $15/hour minimum wage on campus in order to provide a response to community members who have raised this issue with the Board.
It was requested that the Board learn more about HB 2899 and its impact on the University. The Academic and Student Affairs Committee will take this up.

10. Adjourn

Chair Miller adjourned the meeting at 11:58 pm