Minutes

PART ONE

February 2, 2018
Hotel Dossier
8:30 AM – 12:30 PM

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

Board Members Not Present: Peter Stott, Steph Shao

1. Call to Order/Roll/ Declaration of Quorum

Chair Miller called the meeting to order at 8:40 am. Roll was taken, a quorum was present, and the meeting proceeded.

2. Kick Off

President Shoureshi reviewed various PSU “Points of Pride,” including US News and World Report again ranking PSU in the Top 10 Most Innovative Schools, the $25 million Exito Grant, the Institute for Sustainable Solutions $25 million grant, and TREC’s $29 million grant. President Shoureshi reviewed data regarding the type of students coming to college and PSU’s student body: for instance, PSU’s student body is the most diverse in Oregon, approximately 20,000 of our 28,000 students are from Oregon, and 70% of our students require financial aid.

3. Sally Mason / Keynote speaker

Sally Mason, an AGB consultant and former president of the University of Iowa, made a presentation regarding the national landscape of higher education. Topics included in her presentation included how higher education is a public good, awareness and cost/return on an investment of higher education, demographic shifts in students, changing campus and community cultures, increased campus activism, and questions regarding the business model for higher education. For Dr. Mason’s slides, see our website. https://www.pdx.edu/board/sites/www.pdx.edu.board/files/PSU%20Presentation%20-%20AGB%20Slides%20Mason.pdf.
4. Adjourn

Chair Miller adjourned the meeting at 10:32am to go into a break and Board training session.

PART TWO

February 2, 2018
Hotel Dossier
1:05 PM – 5:00PM

Board Members Present: Erica Bestpitch, Gale Castillo, Sho Dozono, Greg Hinckley, Maude Hines, Tom Imeson, Margaret Kirkpatrick, Irving Levin, Chair Rick Miller, Pete Nickerson, Steph Shao, Lindsay Stewart, Peter Stott, Christine Vernier, and President Shoureshi (ex-officio)

Board Members Not Present: All present.

1. Call to Order/Roll/Declaration of Quorum

Chair Miller called the meeting to order at 1:05pm. Roll was taken, a quorum was present, and the meeting proceeded.

2. Long Term Strategy & Institutional Sustainability

Facilitator Chris Grimm presented themes from individual board member interviews. She discussed change management processes and traits of effective governing board.

Trustees each discussed their backgrounds at PSU, their motivations for serving on the board, and some thoughts about long-term vision.

Chair Miller adjourned the meeting for a break at 2:30 and reconvened at 2:50 pm.

Trustees broke into groups to discuss common themes and components of a shared vision for PSU. The trustees then reconvened as a group and shared the most common themes, which included: access, quality (and the value of a degree), improved reputation, and the need to attain financial sustainability.

President Shoureshi discussed challenges facing PSU, including cost drivers and student financial challenges.

He discussed comparisons of PSU with a handful of institutions that are often considered peers or aspirational peers--Arizona State University, University of Massachusetts-Lowell, George Mason University, University of Illinois-Chicago, and Wayne State University—and particularly focused on change initiatives undertaken at Arizona State and UMass-Lowell.
3. Summary / Close of Day

Facilitator Chris Grimm reviewed goals for change management processes and shared ten habits of highly effective academic governing boards: (1) create a culture of inclusion, (2) uphold basic fiduciary principles, (3) cultivate a healthy relationship with the president, (4) select an effective board chair, (5) establish an effective governance (or executive) committee, (6) delegate appropriate decision-making authority to committees, (7) consider strategic risk factors, (8) provide appropriate oversight of academic quality, (9) develop a renewed commitment to shared governance, and (10) focus on accountability.

4. Adjourn

Chair Miller adjourned the meeting at 5:00 pm.

PART THREE

February 3, 2018
Hotel Dossier
8:30 AM – 12:30 PM

Board Members Present: Erica Bestpitch, Gale Castillo, Sho Dozono, Greg Hinckley, Maude Hines, Tom Imeson, Margaret Kirkpatrick, Irving Levin, Chair Rick Miller, Pete Nickerson, Stephanie Shao, Lindsay Stewart, Peter Stott, Christine Vernier, and President Shoureshi (ex-officio)

Board Members Not Present: Christine Vernier

1. Call to Order/Roll/Declaration of Quorum

Chair Miller called the meeting to order at 8:40 am. Roll was taken, a quorum was present, and the meeting proceeded.

2. Opening Comments

Chris Grimm welcomed the group and set up a discussion around presidential priorities and goals, focusing on what can be tackled immediately. Chair Miller discussed his goal of having enough discussion among trustees and the president to enable further thought and refinement and then additional discussion about presidential goals in June.

3. Presidential Goals for 18/19

President Shoureshi discussed various areas for consideration in the discussion regarding goals, with a focus on access, excellence, affordability, economic development, and student success. Specific topics discussed included initial development of a cooperative education initiative, further focus on student success with community college and K-12 partners, cultivation of major donors for the upcoming capital campaign, the development of centers of excellence, and international university partnerships and alumni cultivation. The board and president also discussed important student
success measures, such as first-year retention and graduation rates, and the importance of those metrics to student success, institutional reputation and the value of a PSU degree. The board and president will further discuss these issues as presidential goals are developed for 2018-19 and for the longer term at future meetings.

The board discussed potential areas for board improvement. In particular, trustees expressed a desire for an improved board onboarding process and program and for meeting agendas that provide more time for substantive and strategic issues, as well as greater stakeholder input. Trustees also expressed a desire for better committee alignment and a board dashboard that includes more than financial data (such as retention and graduation information).

4. Adjourn

Chair Miller adjourned the meeting at 12:30pm.