September 11, 2014
University Place Hotel: Willamette Falls Room
8:00 AM–12:00 PM

MINUTES

Board Members present: Swati Adarkar, Erica Bestpitch, Pam Campos-Palma (via phone), Gale Castillo, Maude Hines, Tom Imeson, Margaret Kirkpatrick, Irving Levin, Rick Miller, Pete Nickerson, Peter Stott, Christine Vernier, and Wim Wiewel.

Board Members not present: Fariborz Maseeh and Sho Dozono.

University Staff present included: David Reese, Rachel Martinez, and Annie Kirk.

1. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL/DECLARATION OF QUORUM

Chair Nickerson called the meeting to order at 8:11 a.m. Roll was called, a quorum was present, and the meeting, having been duly convened, was ready to proceed with business.

2. OPENING COMMENTS AND REPORTS

Chair Pete Nickerson called for a moment of silence in honor of the September 11, 2001 anniversary.

   a. Comments from the Presiding Officer of the Faculty Senate

   Bob Liebman thanked Chair Nickerson for honoring 9/11. Liebman informed the Board that the summer work of the Faculty Senate includes the setting of priorities for the new academic year and that academic program array review is the Senate’s top priority for 2014-15.

   b. Comments on behalf of the Associated Students of Portland State University

   Eric Noll and Rayleen McMillan shared ASPSU’s priorities for the upcoming year, which include food insecurity among students, participating in the debate regarding campus public safety and whether to employ armed university police, cultural competency, and recommending a replacement student trustee for the Board of Trustees.
c. Report from the President

President Wiewel shared current enrollment numbers for Fall 2014 and highlighted numerous recent accomplishments of PSU faculty members. He reported on the progress of the reThink initiative and gave updates regarding fundraising efforts, FY14 final research expenditures, and the shared services collaboration of the seven public universities. Wiewel discussed the work being done at PSU regarding sexual assault prevention and Title IX compliance. He informed the Board that despite a $10 million projected budget shortfall, FY14 closed with less than a $1 million deficit. He also highlighted that PSU is again ranked in the ‘Top Ten Up-and-Coming Universities in the Nation’ for the third year by US News & World Reports. The PSU Business Accelerator is also getting national recognition with the awarding of a $50,000 grant from the U.S. Small Business Administration Growth Accelerator Fund competition, and was ranked third in the U.S., and twentieth worldwide among similar accelerators. Wiewel ended by sharing his priorities for the year, which include: strategic planning; the rethink initiative; academic program review; College of Liberal Arts and Sciences structure evaluation; continued progress on establishment of a School of Public Health; the 2015 legislative session; collaboration of the eight Oregon public universities; evaluating the feasibility of moving forward with changes to the Campus Public Safety Office; and searches to permanently fill the positions of Athletic Director, the School of Business Administration Dean, Vice President of Enrollment Management and Student Affairs, Vice President of Finance and Administration, and the Vice Provost of Academic Personnel and Leadership Development.

3. Consent Agenda

Chair Nickerson submitted the consent agenda for approval, which includes approval of the June 26, 2014 Board meeting minutes.

ACTION: Peter Stott moved to approve the consent agenda. Margaret Kirkpatrick seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

4. Reports of Standing Committees of the Board

Chairs of the Board of Trustees’ standing committees reported on the work of their committees since the last board meeting in June.

a. Executive and Audit Committee

Chair Nickerson reported that the Executive and Audit Committee had no meetings over the summer. Nickerson asked David Reese to report on the search for a new auditor. Reese announced that an offer has been presented and accepted and that the new Director of Internal Audit is expected to begin in the fall.
b. Academic and Student Affairs Committee

Margaret Kirkpatrick, Chair of the Academic and Student Affairs Committee, reported that the committee had no meetings over the summer. Kirkpatrick also reported on her exit interview with Jackie Balzer, former Vice President of Student Affairs and Enrollment Management. Beginning this fall, the committee will take a closer look at the student body and important issues such as food insecurity among students.

c. Finance and Administration Committee

Rick Miller, Chair of the Finance and Administration Committee, reported that the committee had no meetings over the summer. Miller reported that he had met with Kevin Reynolds, Interim Vice President of Finance and Administration, to determine committee priorities for the upcoming year, which include debt evaluation and the transition to PSU of financial statement preparation and other tasks previously performed by the Oregon University System.

5. Action Items

a. Approval of Strategic Planning Charge

Chair Nickerson turned the meeting over to President Wim Wiewel to discuss PSU’s strategic planning process. The process started in May at the Annual Leadership Planning Session (ALPS), where more than eighty faculty, staff, students, and administrators met to discuss the direction of the university in an all-day retreat.

Chair Nickerson and President Wiewel have drafted a charge from the Board to direct the University’s strategic planning effort. The draft was prepared following attendance at an Association of Governing Boards (AGB) Conference session regarding strategic planning. In an effort to engage the campus, a Strategic Plan Development Team will be created with approximately twenty-five people, including faculty, staff, students and administrators. Topic teams will also be developed to ensure adequate focus on designated subjects. President Wiewel will oversee the project and the Board will approve the final plan. At least one member of the Board will be on the Strategic Plan Development Team and the full Board will receive regular updates on the planning process.

ACTION: Gale Castillo moved to approve the strategic planning charge. Christine Vernier seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

b. Establishment of a Special Committee on Campus Public Safety.

President Wiewel described the charge he had given to a Campus Public Safety Task Force in 2012 to evaluate and make recommendations regarding public safety at PSU. Kevin Reynolds,
Interim Vice President of Finance and Administration, then began a discussion of the task force report and subsequent steps.

Domanic Thomas, Assistant Dean of Student Life and Director of Conduct and Community Standards at PSU, who also served on the task force, shared key findings of the task force’s report, including that the majority of crimes on the PSU campus are committed by those not associated with PSU; that PSU’s low level of public safety staffing and limited policing authority is very unusual among urban universities and unlike the other large universities in Oregon; and that the Campus Public Safety Office has not kept up with the growth of the University. Thomas also shared key recommendations of the Task Force:

- PSU should explore ways to ensure access to sworn officers who are appropriately trained in campus policing and available on-site to the PSU campus community.
- In addition to arranging for on-site access to fully sworn officers, PSU should maintain access to non-sworn Campus Public Safety Officers to continue providing duties that do not require sworn officer status.
- PSU should establish a permanent committee to provide an ongoing review of campus safety needs and best practices.
- CPSO leadership should provide safety presentations and other education at events such as staff onboarding meetings, student orientation sessions, and Administrative Briefings.

Reynolds shared actions already taken by PSU in response to the task force’s recommendations. CPSO is participating in student orientation in order to better educate students regarding safety on campus, PSU has implemented a state-of-the-art emergency notification system with mandatory signup for students, faculty, and staff, and many PSU buildings now have structured building hours. In addition, PSU is moving towards having all buildings protected by full access control.

Reynolds explained that the task force’s recommendation regarding sworn police officers would require a full campus discussion. There are many differences between a sworn officer and the current campus public safety officers, including the ability to be armed.

Phil Zerzan, Chief of Campus Public Safety, reported on campus crime data. CPSO responded to 233 incidents last year, many of which involved chronic offenders, sometimes armed, and generally involving individuals unaffiliated with the University. Zerzan shared that the response time of Portland Police to a campus call is between five and twenty minutes, whereas the response time for CPSO is two minutes. Zerzan expressed concern that CPSO officers are not equipped to adequately defend themselves, nor able to respond adequately in the event of an active shooter. With regard to the various options identified by the task force, Zerzan reported
that OHSU, Portland Police and the Oregon State Police are all either unable, uninterested or not well-aligned to provide dedicated sworn officers to the PSU campus. Finally, Zerzan shared his support for the recommendations made by the task force.

Reynolds discussed expected next steps in the process. The first step is fully informing the campus and obtaining feedback. There will be outreach to the campus community and a webpage dedicated to feedback and FAQs. The outreach will include multiple presentations and forums for large and small groups. Campus feedback and recommendations would be shared with the Board of Trustees Special Committee on Campus Public Safety, with the intent that the committee will make recommendations to the full Board in December.

Various trustees expressed concern over the time it will take to convene a special committee and make recommendations in December. President Wiewel and Reynolds stressed the importance of creating a special committee to get campus input before a decision is made. Chief Zerzan added that campus police officers must be part of the campus community and that engaging in a campus discussion will bring value to a decision by the Board.

Chair Nickerson announced that if a special committee is approved, Tom Imeson has agreed to serve as chair and Erica Bestpitch has agreed to serve as vice-chair. Nickerson requested that Board members inform Imeson if they want to serve on the committee.

ACTION: Margaret Kirkpatrick moved that the Board establish a Special Committee on Campus Public Safety and charge the committee with framing appropriate questions and considering any recommendations brought forward by the staff regarding implementation of the Campus Public Safety Task Force’s recommendation regarding sworn police officers; direct the Chair of the Board to appoint officers and members to the special committee; and direct the special committee to report back to the full board at the board’s December meeting. Maude Hines seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

6. DISCUSSION ITEMS

a. Introduction to the Portland State University Chapter of the American Association of the University Professors (PSU-AAUP)

Professor Pam Miller, President of the Portland State University Chapter of the American Association of University Professors and Professor in the School of Social Work, discussed her career at the University and shared the mission, history and composition of PSU-AAUP. Miller also informed the Board that contract negotiations would begin in Spring 2015.

b. Introduction to the Portland State University’s Service Employees International Union, Local 503 (SEIU)
Marc Nisenfeld, C Development Engineer and President of SEIU Local 503 at PSU, shared a video regarding SEIU.

c. Introduction to the Graduate School of Education

Randy Hitz, Dean of the Graduate School of Education introduced himself and provided a detailed introduction to the School and its programs, faculty and partnerships.

7. PUBLIC COMMENT

Eric Noll and Rayleen McMillian, ASPSU President and Vice President, addressed the Board regarding the need for student feedback regarding the Campus Public Safety Office discussion, specifically related to the concerns of underrepresented populations and the cost of employing sworn police officers.

Chair Nickerson encouraged trustees to reach out to trustees at the other Oregon public universities. He also invited trustees to attend the Simon Benson Awards Dinner.

Nickerson announced that the next board meeting will be on December 11, 2014 at 1 p.m.

8. ADJOURN