

# Eastern Oregon University

## Memo

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**To:** David Nelson, Chairman, EOU Board of Trustees

**From:** Tom Insko

**CC:** Jay Kenton, Chris Burford

**Date:** June 3, 2015

**Re:** Transition Status Update

I am not able to attend the Eastern Oregon University (EOU) Board of Trustees meeting on Thursday, June 4, 2015, as I am in Salem meeting with legislators and Governor Brown. Given I am not yet in my official capacity as president but recognizing the importance of this leadership transition I provide the following for your information.

My last official day with my current employer, Boise Cascade Company, is Friday, June 26, 2015. From the time of the announcement of my appointment as EOU President on Tuesday, May 12, until Wednesday, July 1, my first official day as president, I am focusing the limited time that I am available on EOU matters that I consider of highest priority. Given the majority of students and faculty will not be on campus during the summer months I have prioritized beginning the process of relationship development with the campus community. Also, with a new Governor recently appointed and the Oregon legislature in session, I am engaging key legislators and the Governor so I can begin working with them to advance EOU.

Listed below is a summary of activities completed or scheduled for completion by Friday, June 5, 2015.

- Completed four separate faculty meetings with 8 to 12 participants in each meeting to allow for good dialog.
- Met individually with each of my direct reports; in some cases multiple times
  - Sarah Witte, Lara Moore, Tim Seydel, Heather Cashell, Xavier Romano, Anji Weissenfluh, Chris Burford
- Met with interim president, Jay Kenton
- Met with former interim president and current board of trustees member Dixie Lund
- Attended Executive Committee meeting
- Joined students in Hoke and played the ping pong tournament champion in a game of ping pong (I lost!)
- Introduced myself and informally met with the financial aid team
- Met the new ASEOU President, Addie Beplate
- Attended EOU Art Show in Zabel Hall and met many faculty, staff, students and community members
- Attended Mountaineer Athletic Association meeting
- Attended theatre production, "No Sex Please, We're British"
- Attended music production, "Duets"

- Attended weekend “Spring Fling” and met numerous students and Coach Camp’s family
- Attended Dr. Carpenter’s BA346 (E-Marketing) class presentation of research completed to inform the initiation of the EOU online MBA
- Having dinner with Tim Seydel, Representative Barreto, Representative Bentz, Representative Smith and Senator Hansell
- Meeting with Representative Barreto
- Meeting with Representative Johnson
- Meeting with Representative Read
- Meeting with Representative Buckley
- Meeting with Representative Smith
- Meeting with Representative McLane
- Meeting with Senator Ferrioli
- Meeting with Senator Roblan
- Meeting with Governor Brown and education policy advisor, Lindsay Capps
- Meeting with Dan Mielke, Eastern Promise Coordinator and Interim Dean of COBE
- Attending OSBHE meeting and joint dinner of EOU and OSBHE boards
- Fielded and responded to numerous emails and phone calls from faculty, staff and the community at-large
- In process of submitting application to attend Harvard New President’s Seminar (mid-July)
  - Attendance recommended by Cathy Dyck, Interim Chancellor
- Having numerous discussions regarding academic leadership so I can be better informed as I develop a plan once I have moved into the president’s position
  - Note: although Sarah Witte, Provost, Regina Braker, Dean of CAS, and Dan Mielke, Dean of COBE, are currently interim academic leaders, they are seasoned veterans and capable managers. Each has a long history with EOU. This affords me the opportunity to allocate an appropriate amount of time to develop a thoughtful and prudent plan for filling these positions on a permanent basis.
- Working on a note to the faculty to be delivered prior to the end of the academic year

I will be available for questions and conversation with any and all board members on Thursday evening, June 4, and Friday, June 5. I look forward to July 1, when I fully assume the responsibilities as president.