



EASTERN OREGON
UNIVERSITY

Board of Trustees

Regular Meeting of the Governance Committee

Board of Trustees

January 6, 2016

11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Ackerman Alumni Room, 208

Eastern Oregon University

La Grande, Oregon

(Conference Call)

Minutes

Trustees Present: Jer Pratton (phone), Ray Brown, Holly Kerfoot (phone), and Bill Johnson.

University Staff Present: Chris Burford, Tim Seydel, and Heidi Tilicki.

Announcements and Consent Items: Chair Bill Johnson started the meeting at 11:02 a.m. with no announcements, the committee moved to the consent items. The only consent item, the minutes from the November 4th Governance Committee meeting, were passed with no changes.

Review and Approval of Annual Work Plan: After a brief discussion, the meetings of the Governance Committee will change to the same days as the Finance and Administration Committee. These dates will be February 18, March 17, April 7, and May 19. The Governance Committee will meet earlier in the day, prior to the Finance and Administration meeting times.

Chair Johnson mentioned the Oregon University System (OUS) policy transition. Secretary Burford noted that he is making progress on that process. The board and shared governance will be playing some role in this process. Chair Johnson read from Board Statement Number 5 – Policies and asked if we should flag this and add it to our work plan. Trustee Pratton noted that we have never sat down and discussed what our goals as a university are. This topic will be postponed until later in the meeting. Motion to approve the work plan with the changes to the dates. Motion carried unanimously.

Prep for Legislative Session: Vice President Tim Seydel gave a brief overview of the key issues involving higher education in the next legislative session. They include current service levels (CSL), gross receipts tax, PERS roll-up costs, high school graduation rates, emergency planning at colleges and universities (which is now a statewide effort), and various workgroups. The biggest one for EOU is current services levels.

Vice President Tim Seydel listed important dates regarding the participation of higher education entities with the state legislature. February 11th will be Public University Day. EOU is encouraging trustees, faculty, students, and staff to attend this event in Salem.

Review Draft of Presidential Evaluation Process: Chair Johnson asked Board Secretary Chris Burford to give an overview of the draft. Secretary Burford noted that the President's goals are a good baseline for how the President is evaluated. Discussion continued on who and how many people would conduct the written evaluation. The actual documents involved in the process are confidential. The designated board officers would draft the evaluation and get comments from board members. There would be good communication between the board officers and members during this evaluation. The committee members continued to discuss the timing, detail, and involvement of various constituencies for the evaluation process. Secretary Burford will make the recommended changes and have a revised draft at the February meeting. The final draft will be taken to the board for approval in April.

Update on Vacant Term Process for Faculty, Staff, and Student Positions: Vice President for University Advancement Tim Seydel noted that this process will begin in January. First the word will be spread by meeting with shared governance on campus. Any names should be submitted through University Advancement by the end of March. These names would then be submitted to the Governor's Office in April, and reviewed by the Senate in May. If selected, their official duties would begin in July. Prospective candidates will hopefully be discussed at the February committee meeting.

Association of Governing Boards (AGB) Effective Board Criteria: Chair Johnson reviewed the seven recommendations AGB offers for effective governing boards. He asked how these guidelines can be used for this committee. Chair Johnson read each recommendation and asked the committee members for their input. Trustee Pratton mentioned that older boards may have more of these problems than we do as a new board here at EOU. Trustee Kerfoot noted that this matrix is helpful for board members to pay attention to. Trustee Pratton noted that these questions might be helpful when the President forms his goals. Vice President Seydel said this is an opportunity for this committee to engage in conversations.

Secretary Burford and Chair Johnson suggested a possible work session in April to go over these seven questions. Are there any items that this committee needs to review quickly? Vice President Seydel noted that EOU does not have a board orientation packet for new board members or any document stating what board members do and what is expected of them.

Chair Johnson said he will work with Secretary Burford to understand how we can better develop these columns.

For the Good of the Order: Trustee Ray Brown noted that due to the few recent campus events where board members have engaged with the students, faculty, and staff, the university can now put a face to the name of “Board of Trustees” which is great.

Respectfully submitted,

Heidi Tilicki