



**MEETING OF THE  
ACADEMIC AND STUDENT AFFAIRS COMMITTEE  
OF  
THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF EASTERN OREGON UNIVERSITY  
January 27, 2021 2:00 - 4:00 pm  
Via Zoom**

**Call to Order and Roll Call**

Chairman Johnson called the meeting to order at 2 p.m.

*Present:* Bill Johnson, Karyn Gomez, Tom Insko, Cheryl Martin, Maurizio Valerio, George Mendoza (arrived at 2:30)

*Absent:* Brittney Hamilton

*Quorum Present:* Yes

*Others present:* Jerred Jolin, Luke Aldrich, Katelyn Winkler, Tim Seydel, Lara Moore, LeeAnn Case, Chris Burford, Matt Seimears, Laura Gow-Hogge, Richard Chaves, Holly Chason, Ed Henninger, Marianne Weaver, Adam Lofti, Ryan Dearing, Sarah Witte, Lacy Karpilo, Angie Adams and Molly Burke

**Consent Item:**

Minutes of the regular meeting held on October 28, 2020 were presented for approval.

**Motion:** Trustee Gomez moved to approve

**Second:** Trustee Valerio seconded the motion.

**Action:** By unanimous approval, the minutes of October 28, 2020 were accepted as presented.

**Action Item:**

**Agriculture Entrepreneurship**

Dean Henninger and Professor Laura Gow provided a brief overview of the program (see agenda for materials). Professor Gow noted that this program fits well with the community college curriculum for ease of transfer and existing relationships with highschools in the region.

Trustee Gomez asked about the modality of this program. Gow responded it will be offered on campus as well as available for place bound students, in a hybrid model.

Trustee Martin noted that experiential learning is key to this program. She asked if the Union Ag Center will be a facility that has been considered. Gow indicated that it could be an option in the future and noted that there would be a contract required with a financial commitment. The success of the program does not hinge on the use of the facility.

Chair Johnson referenced the projected student numbers and asked if we anticipate losing students from the existing OSU @ La Grande Campus programs. Johnson also asked if EOU has been working with the foundation to fund the faculty line. Gow pointed out that we need working relationships and need to be conservative with requesting funding from partners.

Trustee Mendoza asked about the connection with the Sustainable Rural Systems degree. Mendoza suggested reaching out to the local high schools and working with FFA programs as a pipeline of students.

**Motion:** Trustee Gomez moved to approve

**Second:** Trustee Mendoza seconded the motion.

**Action:** By unanimous approval, the Agriculture Entrepreneurship program was approved.

#### Special Education Initial Teacher Licensure

Assistant Professor, Jerred Jolin, provided a brief overview of the program (see agenda for materials). Trustee Chaves appreciated the connection of the program to the Strategic Plan and that the budget considerations were included.

Trustee Gomez asked what external approvals were needed in order for this program to be available fall 2021. Jolin responded indicating that HECC and TSPC need to approve.

Trustee Gomez asked about the future potential of this program being available online. She also noted that revenue expansion through grants is an appealing part of the program potential.

**Motion:** Trustee Valerio moved to approve

**Second:** Trustee Martin seconded the motion.

**Action:** By unanimous approval, the SEITL program was approved.

#### **Discussion Items:**

##### Enrollment Update

AVP Holly Chason provided an enrollment presentation, view [here](#).

Trustee Mendoza asked about the significant decline in applications and asked if Holly could provide any detail. Chason indicated that smaller regional institutions are experiencing a decline

in applications. However, larger state universities are seeing increased interest. One possible impact is removal of the requirement to submit test scores for admissions.

Trustee Gomez asked about the process for setting targets for student recruitment. Chason indicated that it is initially determined based on the Strategic Plan goals. She shared that on campus goals were modified based on additional information that has been gathered.

### Mental Health of Students

Dr. Marianne Weaver and Dr. Adam Lofti provided a presentation about the current mental health of Eastern Oregon University students.

The counseling center is focusing on Intentionally discussing loss and grief with students, they are seeing that bubbling up with students. Weaver indicated that any student that doesn't process loss or grief, acts out.

Weaver shared that the relational connection is important to students' mental health.

Weaver pointed out that structure is important to students. Lofti shared that the transition from high school, where there is more structure, to college, can be challenging for students.

Trustee Gomez would like EOU to consider ways that there can be support and structure for online students. VP Karpilo shared that we do have ways of reaching out to online students. Weaver shared that there is a resource guide that we use to find services for online students in the area in which they live.

### Professional Development

Provost Witte introduced Professor Ryan Dearing. Witte shared that the faculty research agenda is important in the following ways: area of review for tenure and promotion, connects to academic quality for classroom instruction, visibility to the institution through publications, and faculty research agendas.

Professor Dearing provided an overview of Faculty Research and Professional Development. Dearing shared what roles research and professional development play in a faculty member's academic career, shared how a research agenda begins and evolves, the constraints of research and professional development, and the benefits of research and professional development.

Dearing shared that the level of support that EOU provides our faculty members is impressive and important.

Trustee Johnson suggested that faculty have ways to be better connected to Oregon, connection to place as a research agenda. He asked the committee if we should be working to make this happen.

Trustee Gomez wanted to be cautious that all research be connected to place--another purpose is to bring in a global perspective. Connection to place It is an expectation as part of the service component.

Dearinger indicated that students should come to Eastern Oregon University to learn about the world, not about Oregon.

Provost Witte indicated that research agendas evolve as part of being connected to EOU. Faculty bring in outside perspectives and offer students opportunities to attend conferences and presentations, gaining real world experiences.

### **Adjournment**

There being no further business before the Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 4 p.m.

Minutes submitted by Molly Burke and Angie Adams.