

Government Relations Update for Campus Community

Oregon Tech’s governance transition is moving forward on schedule, including the nomination and appointment of an Oregon Tech Board of Trustees later this year; and the establishment of Shared Services among Oregon’s public universities beginning on July 1, replacing some services formerly delivered by the Chancellor’s Office. As the transition evolves, please check the [Oregon Tech Government Relations website for the latest updates](#).

Key Events in the Governance and Shared Services Transition:

1. **Legislature passed [SB 1525](#) and [HB 4018](#) in 2014 legislative session** – both provide a clearer path to independent university governance, and clearer roles for trustees. HB 4018 included a provision that gave the State Board of Higher Education the ability to endorse, not endorse, or endorse with conditions governing boards for each of the technical and regional universities (TRUs): EOU, Oregon Tech, SOU and WOU. This bill set the stage for each of the TRUs to pursue governing boards at their respective institutions.



Representative Peter Buckley, Co-Chair of Joint Ways and Means Committee, has been a true champion for the technical and regional universities.

2. **[Special Appropriations of \\$3.5M for Technical and Regional University transition expenses in 2014-15.](#)** Thanks to Representative Peter Buckley, the legislature appropriated \$3.5 million to cover expenses of the TRUs in 2014-15 for increased costs associated with university shared services (shared among all seven public universities), TRU shared services (that the TRUs are absorbing from the Chancellor’s Office), and transition expenses related to governance. If approved in May, \$700,000 of the \$3.5M will go to the Higher Education Coordinating Commission (HECC) to cover increased expenses to maintain the higher education data system and institutional research functions; \$2.3M will be divided among the TRUs; and \$500,000 remains to be allocated. We will be in Salem on May 28, 29, and 30 rooting for our team!

3. [State Board of Higher Education Endorses a Governing Board for Oregon Tech, without conditions.](#) On April 4, 2014, the State Board of Higher Education (SBHE) approved President Maples' request for the university to establish its own independent Board of Trustees.

"It truly is a historic day for Oregon Tech," Maples said. "I look forward to working with the current and future State Board of Higher Education and the Chancellor's Office in the transition process over the coming months."

The SBHE approval sets in motion the process of nominating trustees, seeking legislative approval, developing new bylaws, policies and procedures, staffing and orienting a new board, and beginning a new era of self-governance for Oregon Tech.

4. **Nomination Process for Faculty, Staff and Student Candidates for Oregon Tech Board of Trustees.**

According to SB 270, Trustees of the University range from a minimum of 11 to a maximum of 15, and the actual number of Trustees within this range is fixed or changed by the Governor, as provided by law. The President of the University is an ex officio non-voting Trustee. The remaining Trustees are appointed by the Governor, with the approval of the Oregon Senate. One Trustee shall be a student at the University. One Trustee shall be a faculty member of the University. One Trustee shall be a non-faculty employee of the University. The faculty and non-faculty employee Trustees shall be either voting or non-voting Trustees, as designated by the Governor at the time of appointment. The faculty and non-faculty employee Trustees may not participate in any discussion or action by the board or attend any executive session of the board involving collective bargaining issues.



The Governor has requested a list of nominees from President Maples for the Board of Trustees. The President will nominate at least 12 business and community Trustees, with a list of alternates for the Governor. The Faculty Senate will send the Governor two nominees for the Faculty representative seat. The Administrative Council and SEIU will send two nominees for the Staff representative seat. ASOIT will send several nominees for the Student seat. The Governor has six months to appoint Trustees, but is mostly likely to appoint and seek confirmation of the Senate during Legislative Days in September and/or December 2014. Thus, Oregon Tech will have six additional months to familiarize the Trustees with the university and conduct any needed orientation and training, prior to the board assuming legal governing authority on July 1, 2015.

5. **Nomination Process for Business and Community Candidates for Oregon Tech Board of Trustees.** The President has received many inquiries from individuals who are willing to serve, and has been meeting with business and community leaders over the past six months to develop a strong and strategic list of nominees. President Maples is seeking 12 individuals with a range of experience and expertise, including various employment sectors aligned with Oregon Tech’s educational footprint, Higher Education (universities & community colleges) experience, K-12 knowledge/expertise, Student services expertise, Rural/Urban, Business, Finances, Legal, and/or Political expertise, Alumni, Veterans, Public/Private/Non-Profit, Economic development, Parent of student/alumni, various levels within company/organization (CEO; VP; Director; etc.). The President will provide the Governor with nominations of twenty or more leaders who are willing to serve Oregon Tech.

Any member of the public is welcome to express his/her interest and apply for an Executive Appointment by the Governor to the Oregon Tech Board of Trustees, now or in the future, by visiting the [Governor’s Executive Appointments website](#) and by completing an [Executive Appointment Form](#).

6. **Timeline for Confirmations and Transition Milestones.**

- June 2014: Nominations submitted to the Governor
- June – Sept: Executive Appointments forms to Governor’s office; background checks conducted; nominations announced.
- Sept and/or Dec: Senate confirmation process for nominees
- September 2014: Campus Orientation on Board of Trustees/ Governance Transition at Convocation
- Feb – June: 2015 Legislative Session; work on higher education budget and formula for covering the cost of shared services for 2015 and beyond.
- Feb – June 2015: Board orientation and training; bylaws, policies and procedures revised for adoption by new Board in July 2015; building on the experience of large universities, and in consultation with legal counsel and external experts such as Association of Governing Boards (AGB).
- July 2015: Board of Trustees assumes governing authority for Oregon Tech.

7. **Plans for Campus Orientation and Training.** The Offices of Government Relations and Communications/Public Affairs will collaborate on a Campus Orientation on Governance to conduct at Convocation in September. In consultation with the AGB, our larger sister universities, and Oregon Community College Association, we will be sharing information with the campus community on the new role of the board, the difference between governance and management, and the nature of campus/board interaction. Gather with us for a conversation and to get your questions answered in September.



8. **Plans for developing new board bylaws, policies and alignment with Oregon Tech policies and procedures.** One of the more complex and vital tasks associated with the Board transition is writing new policies governing Oregon Tech to replace those of the SBHE; and aligning the soon-to-be obsolete Oregon Administrative Rules (OARs), Internal Management Directives (IMDs) and Policy Manuals from OUS, with Oregon Tech’s policies, procedures and contract language so that they are appropriate for the new governance structure. The Executive Team is currently working with Ryan Hagemann, OUS General Counsel, on a high-level policy alignment framework, and utilizing the leadership and examples from the larger universities on how to accomplish this task. Stay tuned for more updates on this work at convocation.

9. **In the meantime... new board members appointed to State Board of Higher Education, Oregon Tech’s governing board until July 1, 2015.** On May 14, 2014, the Governor announced [four new appointments to the Oregon State Board of Higher Education](#) that will be referred to the Oregon Senate for confirmation this week. The four nominees are: Adam Washington, Portland (SOU alumnus), Lisa Graham, Bend (member of Oregon Tech President’s Advisory Council and ETIC), David Nelson, Pendleton (former state senator from eastern Oregon), and Emily Plec, Dallas (current board member and faculty member at WOU). These leaders will join the remaining state board members and serve for one year, until each institutional board assumes authority in July 2015.

10. **In the meantime, the Higher Education Coordinating Commission [HECC] is actively performing its [new duties](#):**
 - a. Reviewing University Mission Statements
 - b. Developing Academic Program Approval Process
 - c. Developing new State Funding Allocation Model
 - d. Developing new process for Capital Construction Requests, prior to sending to the legislature
 - e. Conducting ongoing committee work.

Here is how Oregon Tech is staffing the Oregon Education Investment Board [OEIB] and HECC committee work:

- i. Outcome-based funding work group: Brad Burda
- ii. Full HECC and OEIB Meetings: President Maples and Lita Colligan
- iii. HECC Funding and Achievement Subcommittee: MaryAnn Zemke and Brad Burda
- iv. HECC Credit for Prior Learning Subcommittee: Wendy Ivey
- v. HECC Student Success Subcommittee: Sonja Holcomb
- vi. OEIB Best Practices and Student Transition Subcommittee: Marla Edge and Carleen Drago Starr
- vii. OEIB Equity and Partnerships Subcommittee: Dana Onorato
- viii. OEIB Outcomes and Investments Subcommittee: Brad Burda

- ix. OEIB STEM Investment Council: Charlie Jones, Mateo Aboy
- x. OEIB Accelerated Learning Committee: Marla Edge and Carleen Drago Starr

THANK YOU TO OREGON TECH'S Faculty, Staff, Students and Supporters everywhere for your informed engagement to help President Maples, the State Board of Higher Education, the Legislature, and the Governor determine the next governance model for higher education in Oregon. Your interest, input and support are greatly appreciated.

For more information, contact the Office of Strategic Partnerships and Government Relations
<http://www.oit.edu/office-of-strategic-partnerships/governmentrelations>

Lita Colligan, Associate Vice President ~ 503-821-1247 ~ Lita.colligan@oit.edu