Senate President’s Standing Report
University of Oregon Board of Trustees Meeting
March 5, 2015

Since the last Board of Trustees meeting, the University Senate has had five meetings, which have been among the most productive in the history of the university. As promised, we have focused on items that are critically important for the future of our university and are directly related to the current work of the board.

First, the Senate—represented primarily by myself and Professor John Bonine (Law)—closely collaborated with Interim President Coltrane, Acting Provost Bronet, Board Member Susan Gary, and Board Secretary Angela Wilhelms to revise the University Policy on Policies. We are thrilled with the revised policy, which was passed unanimously by the Senate at our February 11th meeting ahead of the deadline set by the board. We have sent the revised Policy on Policies to the board for your endorsement this week and with our gratitude for the process of collaboration that resulted in the final document. Moreover, we regard this process as a model for our future endeavors.

Second, we are fully engaged in the process of policy realignment required by the board, and already, we have made enormous progress. The Senate began the New Year with more than 300 academic policies to consider, and as of today, we have repealed or adopted approximately 30% of them through legislation that was unanimously approved at our three January meetings.

By any measure, this is incredibly swift progress. And we continue to work exceptionally hard on policy realignment through six Senate workgroups that we have formed through legislation: the Grievance Workgroup; the Student Grievance Workgroup; the Curriculum and Program Matters Workgroup; the Employment Matters Workgroup; the Admissions Workgroup, and the Discrimination Policies Workgroup. All of these are primarily comprised of Senators with expertise in the requisite areas, as well as administrators and policy experts from all five Senate constituencies. Over the course of the spring quarter, the workgroups will bring legislation before the Senate that features policies needing minor or major revisions.

Our work in the New Year has not stopped here, though. Over the course of our past five meetings, the Senate has also approved the following motions, among others:

- **On January 14th**—a resolution entitled “Senate Support to Uphold and Implement a Confidential Ombuds Program and Office”;

- **Also on January 14th**—a resolution entitled “UO Foundation Fossil Fuel Divestment”;

- **On January 21st**—legislation creating “The UO Senate Award for Shared Governance, Transparency, and Trust,” which will be awarded annually to the administrator or other member of the UO community who has best exemplified these characteristics during a given year;
• On February 11th—a resolution to create and make accessible more gender-inclusive restrooms on the University of Oregon campus, which also states that the University Senate supports trans and gender nonconforming people in their struggle to obtain essential services and equal rights;

• On March 4th—a resolution entitled “Not in Our Name: The UO Senate Rejects UO’s Response to the Lawsuit from the Student Survivor of Alleged Rape,” which praises President Coltrane’s decision to drop the university’s counterclaim against the student survivor for UO’s legal fees, while asking him to withdraw the remaining victim-blaming language that has been retained in the revised response listed under “unclean hands”;

• On March 4th—legislation regarding the selection of the UO Faculty Athletics Representative (FAR), a position mandated by the NCAA, which has defined the position in its handbook for FAR’s as “denoting the perceived need on the part of the NCAA to involve a faculty viewpoint in the administration of intercollegiate athletics programs”;

• And also on March 4th—legislation regarding payments by the Athletics Department for general academic purposes.

In the first two quarters of the 2014-2015 academic year, the University Senate has already passed 54 motions, which is more than any previous Senate has passed in an entire year. I believe that this indicates the strong resolve of the entire university campus—all five Senate constituencies: faculty, students, Officers of Administration, Officers of Research, and Classified Staff—to work collaboratively with the central administration and the Board of Trustees in order to fulfill the educational mission of our university.

The Senate is deeply committed to working with you in this common endeavor, as we strive to co-create an institution that is devoted to upholding the highest standards of intellectual integrity and academic excellence.

Respectfully submitted,
Robert Kyr
Philip H. Knight Professor of Music
President, University Senate
March 5, 2015