

OSURA Annual Meeting Minutes

Friday, May 23, 2025

Meeting Place: OSU Foundation Offices

Called to order at 2:02 pm by President Mary Burke

1. **Report from Jayathi Y. Murthy, 16th President of Oregon State University**

Mary Burke introduced President Murthy. This will be Dr. Murthy's third presentation at OSURA. Mary indicated that President Murthy has faced and is still facing numerous challenges in difficult times. Recently, she had an unusual challenge. She assisted by tasting in the development of a tea flavored ice cream named in her honor. You can all now taste that newly flavored ice cream in the OSU Ice Cream Parlor in Withycombe Hall.

President Murthy indicated that she is most appreciative of OSURA and the work it is doing particularly in support of OSU's students. OSU is in the eighth week of Spring term and commencement is near. She is happy to report the university will soon be joined by a new Provost, Dr. Roy Haggerty, who is at Louisiana State University and many of you will remember from his previous service at OSU. Roy has already been engaged in activities in the Provost's Office and will officially start on July 7th.

There is so much positive to report. President Murthy recently visited Agility Robotics which makes humanoid robots right here in Salem, Oregon. Agility is a 2015 spin-off from OSU and is now a \$250 million operation employing 120 people in their 70,000 ft² facility. It is an example of how OSU brings innovation to Oregon and the world.

Enrollment is now near 38,000 students and OSU is the largest university in the state. Ecampus has ranked in the top 10 for the past 11 years with 11,600 students and with a 30,000-enrollment target by 2030. So far things are going great but as you all know, there are many headwinds.

The OSU Strategic Plan "**Prosperity Widely Shared, the Oregon State Plan**" focuses on student success where "every student should graduate". Right now, 71% graduate (67% in peer institutions) and this needs to be higher. Support dollars are not what they should be. Tuition costs are too high. The strategic plan puts emphasis on "Finish in Four" with a forward-looking, career skills baccalaureate core.

The OSU Cascades Campus has a new \$14 million **Student Success Center** and in Corvallis, the \$100 million **Jen-Hsun Huang and Lori Mills Huang Collaborative Innovation Complex** is under construction. This will house a large modern computer with considerable Artificial Intelligence capability. Other Oregon universities will also be using this facility. Happily, the **PRAx Center** (Patricia Valian Reser Center for the Creative Arts) is doing its planned job of

blurring the lines between science, technology and creativity, e.g., “the industrial robots dance” this past January. In the refurbished **Withycombe Hall** and the now open ice cream store, there was lots of collaboration with Oregon agriculture including Tillamook Dairy. An OSU student has developed a new “Presidential Ice Cream” based on tea flavors and President Murthy thought it was wonderful.

Beavers are doing very good work on grants but there are headwinds. OSU will hold to its values and mission and when threatened take legal action. Mostly, this action will be with others. It is not an easy situation. President Murthy again expressed gratitude to OSURA for its support of OSU and its students.

Questions:

- **Joanne Sorte** asked how President Murthy sleeps at night with so many things happening. **President Murthy** indicated that with time, crisis muscles are built up.
- **Jo Ann Trow** asked about the cultural centers and how these important centers were weathering in the current DEI environment. **President Murthy** indicated that the universities legal advisors thought the cultural centers were in full compliance.
- **Carolyn Aldwin** asked about grant funding and challenges there. **President Murthy** indicated that 43 of OSU’s 1,500 grants have been stopped. Last year grants amounted to \$422 million, and she does worry about the future. The current US House Bill cuts NSF and NIH substantially and those cuts could be crippling to OSU. They will know more in September. The grant funding picture will be quite unstable until 2026 or 2028.
- **Carolyn Aldwin** asked about OSU being part of something like the Big 10 mutual defense pact. **President Murthy** indicated that most OSU activity in this area would use collaborative approaches.

Mary Burke thanked President Murthy for her service to OSU and for her presentation to OSURA. President Murthy remained to help present certificates to the scholarship recipients.

2. OSURA Scholarship Presentations

Mary Burke and Larry Pribyl introduced eight OSURA scholarship recipients and President Murthy presented the students with OSURA Certificates.

Mary reported that since 2007, **100** scholarships worth **\$170,500** have been awarded by OSURA. This year’s 8 awards ranged from \$2,000 to \$4,000 for a grand total of \$30,000. There has been a continual uptick with more scholarship dollars awarded each year from 2007 to the present. Scholarship applications require a transcript, GPA, two references, a resume, and an essay on how their career will advance healthy aging. There is some concern that the application is too restrictive. The number of applications is not as high as desired. Mary thanked the Scholarship Selection Committee of Kevin Ahern, Indira Rajagopal, and Dick Waring.



Left to right: **Carrie Cantrell** (Major - Digital Communication Arts; Future Plans – *Develop communication frameworks to bridge generational gaps in healthcare settings and society*), **Emma Hills** (Major – Psychology; Future Plans -- *Geropsychology*), **Camryn Lau** (Major – Nutrition; Future Plans – *Become a geriatric physician*), **Ian Light** (Major – Chemistry; Future Plans – *Chemist to turn timber waste into materials for drugs and fuels to reduce cost of medicine for elders*), **Sydney Potter** (Major – Kinesiology; Future Plans – *Occupational therapist in a hospital working with older adults*), **Avery Pex** (Major – Biology; Future Plans – *Become a veterinarian to help animals and in turn, help us*), **Sadie Duffy** (Major – Horticulture; Future Plans – *Help older people with garden plants*), **Veronica Robinson** (Major – Psychology; Future Plans – *Psychologist that works with the elderly community*), and **President Jayathi Murthy**.

The scholarship recipients will participate in an OSURA **Scholarship Student Panel** scheduled for Monday, September 29th at the Corvallis Public Library.

3. Treasurers Report

Bruce Sorte gave the treasurer’s report indicating that OSURA is in a strong fiscal position. For FY25, the General Fund had an ending balance of \$16,114, and the Scholarship Fund had an ending balance of \$16,631. Combining these, the Cash on Hand was \$32,745. The Scholarship Endowment had a book value of \$106,721. Bruce indicated that this endowment generated about 4% per year and suggested that 25% of this be plowed back into the endowment in the future. The scholarships awarded today came to \$30,000. This has increased from about \$2,000 in 2008 to the current \$30,000 in 2025.

4. New FY25 OSURA Officers and Board Members

Mary Burke reported that the Nominations Committee chaired by Carroll DeKock had recommended a new slate of officers at the April 4th board meeting:

Gary Beach as President,
Larry Pribyl as President Elect,
Mike Burke as Secretary,
Bruce Sorte as Treasurer and
Mary Burke as Past President.

Mary reported that the Nominations Committee recommended:

Carolyn Aldwin,
Bill Boggess, and
Leslie Burns Boggess

for membership on the OSURA Board. Mary asked if there were additional nominations from the floor and there were none. Carroll DeKock moved, and Jaga Giebultowicz seconded the nominations be closed. The vote of the membership was unanimous.

Mary thanked the only retiring board member Carroll DeKock for his service on the OSURA board. Mary also thanked Teri Trujillo from the University Events Office for her fantastic support for the OSURA board.

Mary described some of the OSURA activities this past year: OSURA started this year with a scholarship student panel in late September. Bruce and Joanne Sorte talked to us about how to remain adventuresome as mental, physical and financial situations change. Bill and Leslie Boggess took us to the Antarctic. We had a MECOP program on very successful internship programs in engineering and business. David Bernell walked us through the November election process and will soon follow-up on the election's aftermath. We had a wonderful program on OSU's ROTC programs including a ROTC student panel. Tom and Jaga Giebultowicz took us to Madagascar. Curt Melchor, the retired director of ODFW, described his long career and challenges in heading the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife. Marla and Russ Karow told us about how the Reciprocal Home Stay Program works. Scott Barnes, Scott Rueck, and Sydney Wiese gave two presentations on OSU Athletics in the post Pac 12 era and how a chaotic woman's basketball season ended up being quite successful. And there are still more OSURA programs and events to come.

Mary indicated that this has been a challenging year for finding consistent and adequate meeting facilities for OSURA's wide array of programs and meetings. We currently use the OSU Foundation Offices on Research Way, the LaSells Stewart Center, the Benton Community Foundation Offices, the Corvallis-Benton County Public Library, and the Corvallis Community Center to list a few. They all have advantages and limitations. Some of the issues regard parking, handicap access, access to the internet, and Zoom availability. The board will continue to work on this.

Mary indicated in late March that the Membership Services Committee sent out a survey to all OSURA members (300 members and 300 more in the OSURA Directory) to ask if they were interested in participating in different types of OSURA activities. The committee was very pleased to get responses from 106 people, which is about a 30% response rate. The three most popular choices and suggested leaders for activities were:

- **Cultural** (82.8%) -- Carolyn Aldwin (Carolyn.Aldwin@oregonstate.edu)
- **Social** (83.7%), Joanne Sorte (joanne.sorte@gmail.com)
- **Physical** (e.g., walks at Bald Hill) (76.2%), Jaga Giebultowicz (Jaga.Giebultowicz@oregonstate.edu)

The Member Services Committee volunteered to organize and lead three subcommittees which are listed above. They will be contacting those who said they were interested in leading or participating in the activity to solicit additional committee members. People interested in serving on a subcommittee should contact the respective leader above.

Book club was a close runner-up, with 70.5% indicating interest. In addition, nearly 80% indicated that they would be interested in online activities. *One possibility is to organize a virtual book club. Anyone interested in leading or serving on the book club subcommittee, please contact Jaga at the above address.*

Mary finally passed the gavel to Gary Beach, OSURA's new president.

5. Other Business

Gary Beach thanked Mary Burke for her service as president. Gary noted the following upcoming OSURA activities: **May 29th**, David Bernell talk "Does this Hurt! An Assessment of Trump's 100 Days" at 1:30 pm at the Corvallis Community Center. **June 16th**, Doug Kessler presentation "Chip Wars come to Corvallis" at the OSU Foundation Office on Research Way. **July**, a world class OSURA mini golf tournament. **October 6th**, a program on traveling in the UK.

Next year will bring more! He indicated that 2026 will be OSURA's 25th anniversary. Perhaps Les Risser, who was involved in OSURA's founding, might take part in an anniversary event. The next general membership meeting will be the OSURA **Scholarship Student Panel** scheduled for Monday, **September 29th** at the Corvallis Public Library.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:04 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Mike Burke