

OSURA Board Meeting Minutes corrected 5/9/25

Friday, May 2, 2025

Meeting Place: Benton County Foundation

Present:, Tony Amandi, Gary Beach, Harrison Branch, Mary Burke, Mike Burke, Carroll DeKock, Jaga Giebultowicz, Bruce Sorte, Joanne Sorte, Teri Trujillo, and Liz Webb

Guest: Carolyn Aldwin

Absent: Kevin Ahern, Rose Kenneke Larry Pribyl, and Indira Rajagopal

Called to order at 10:02 am by President Mary Burke.

1. Review and Approval of Board Minutes of Friday, April 4, 2025

A motion to approve the corrected minutes was made by Gary Beach, seconded by Bruce Sorte. The motion was unanimously approved.

2. Budget and Finance – Bruce Sorte

The available balance of the General Operating Fund was about the same as last month or about \$16,451.36 on March 31, 2025. The Scholarship Contributions Fund was \$16,583.94. Adding this to the General Operating Fund makes an Available Balance of about \$33,035.30. The Endowment Fund had a book value of \$108,749.23 all on March 31, 2025. Bruce Sorte pointed out that the endowment value is somewhat stagnant and in future the board should consider ways to increase this fund. One suggestion was to contribute “other revenue” to this fund.

Bruce also discussed the board insurance question that Kevin Ahern raised. Bruce didn't think OSU insurance covered or could cover OSURA and that some sort of private insurance would be necessary. Bruce asked if any OSURA board members were members of other boards that were insured. If so, get the name of the insurance company to Bruce. The best way to explore this is to follow what others are doing.

3. Brief Committee Reports

a. Scholarship Committee – Kevin Ahern

Kevin Ahern was not present. Mary Burke indicated that the scholarship committee only had 3 members, and the membership needed to be increased. Mary Burke and Mike Schuyler plan to join the committee next year and perhaps 2 or 3 others should be found..

b. Program Committee – Larry Pribyl, Tony Amandi and Gary Beach

The Future of OSU Athletics Program by Scott Barnes, Vice President and Athletic Director, and Aaron Escobar, Senior Associate Athletic Director and Vice President of Athletic Development was well attended and informative. Larry Pribyl (via e-mail) indicated there were a total of 41 attendees including 3 viewers on-line. The presentation was at the LaSells Stewart Center, Agricultural Sciences Room. Larry learned that LaSells offers limited streaming service using only a fixed camera on the podium meaning the presenters need to be always positioned behind the podium to be seen and heard. It's not for presenters to remain stationary at the front of the room when speaking. There were comments about having handicap parking available near LaSells. Larry was told the nearest car park is near the Alumni Center, but he hasn't pursued parking options yet. Larry thinks we should continue to look at other options for future OSURA presentations.

Coach Scott Rueck and Assistant Coach Sydney Wiese gave an excellent presentation on the women's basketball season this past year. They were introduced by Les Dunnington filling in for Terri Tower, who had lost her voice. The program was in the Agricultural Sciences Room at LaSells Stewart Center and between 42 and 45 people attended with one person on-line.

Scott indicated that this year followed a year of **“chaos”** with many changes “but you can't control what you can't control and if you keep doing what you've been doing, good things will happen.” “If you were around in November, you would have seen some of the worst basketball you'd ever seen.” However, at the home game with Saint Mary's, things “synchronized for the first time, and it was mostly wins after that.” The team showed “massive growth”; they weren't quite good enough to ever relax so they never did relax.” Scott indicated that the staff didn't get enough credit including Sydney Wiese, whom he introduced.

In the questions, Scott was asked why he stayed after the year of chaos? He talked about the culture around here at OSU and in Corvallis. In another question, he described the **“eight minute mingle”** between kids in the audience and the players and how that helps build community and trust where everyone benefits. Sydney Wiese indicated she was one of those kids at one time (at Arizona State) and was also one of those players here at OSU. Sydney described her playing days at OSU and her professional career in the WNBA. She talked about the transition to coaching **“but now she can't take the coaching hat off, meeting kids is where it's at”**. They were asked about NIL (Name, Image, and Likeness) today in women's sports. They said it is fact and reality now and they must adapt to that reality. When asked about the future, Scott said this year they lost no-one, all nine stayed. That's a big win and they now have 4 (maybe 5) additional players signed up!

Gary Beach indicated that on May 29th, **David Bernell** will give a talk titled “Does This Hurt? An Assessment of Trump’s First 100 Days” It will be between 1:30 and 3:30 pm at the Corvallis Community Center. They are not able to secure the larger Hybrid/Oak Room so seating will be available for only 60 people, it could be tight. This will be a joint OSURA/ALL program.

c. Newsletter and Website -- Liz Webb

Liz Webb indicated that the Spring edition of OSURA News and Views has a target date after finals week. Kevin Ahern is working on a scholarship article. Bruce Sorte has a list of donors. There is a potential story of a group of students in the College of Health that has an interest in healthy aging. The deadline for articles is June 1.

d. Member Services Committee -- Jaga Giebultowicz

The Doug Kessler presentation is scheduled for June 16th with the title: “**Chip Wars come to Corvallis**”. It will be at the OSU Foundation Office on Research Way.

Jaga Giebultowicz and Carolyn Aldwin 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 activities. We were very pleased to get responses from 106 people, which is about a 30% response rate.

The three most popular choices for activities were **cultural (82.8%), social (83.7%), and physical activities (76.2%)**. **Book club was a close runner-up, with 70.5%** indicating interest. However, only a few people indicated that they would be willing to lead the activities.

Accordingly, the members of the Activities Committee volunteered to organize and lead **three subcommittees**, with Jaga Giebultowicz heading up the **physical (e.g., walks at Bald Hill)**, Joanne Sorte, the **social**, and Carolyn Aldwin, the **cultural** subcommittees. They will be contacting those who said they were interested in leading or participating in the activity to solicit additional committee members. Or, if you are interested in serving on a subcommittee, we can be reached at Jaga.Giebultowicz@oregonstate.edu, joanne.sorte@gmail.com, or Carolyn.Aldwin@oregonstate.edu, respectively.

In addition, nearly 80% indicated that they would be interested in online activities. One possibility is to organize a virtual book club. If you are interested in leading or serving on the book club subcommittee, please contact Jaga at the above address.

e. Travel Share – Rose Kenneke

One program is in planning on traveling in UK and interacting with people there.

f. Recruitment and Welcoming Committee – Mary Burke

Nothing new. Mary Burke is open to new ideas.

4. Staff Report – Teri Trujillo

Teri Trujillo reported that the OSURA Brochure is in the works and will be e-mailed to the board later today. The deadline for a response is May 15th. Questions remain about how many copies should be printed.

5. Old Business

The Annual OSURA Meeting with President Jayathi Murthy is scheduled for Friday, May 23rd at 2:00 pm in the OSU Foundation Board Room. President Murthy will speak followed by scholarship presentations and then by the OSURA Business Meeting. Slides are needed and Kevin Ahern and Indira Rajagopal are doing the writeups on each of the scholarship winners.

6. New Business

At the next meeting in June, Joe Nibler will meet with the board to discuss the TRIAD scholarship fund.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:03 am.

The next regular OSURA Board Meeting will be on Friday, June 6, 2025, at 10:00 am in the Benton Community Foundation, 340 NW 5th Street, Corvallis.

Respectfully submitted,

Mike Burke