

OSURA Annual Meeting Minutes

May 19, 2022, at 1 PM

Meeting held by Zoom due to COVID-19 restrictions

Called to order at 1:01 PM by President Bill Young on a Zoom link set up and managed by Shelly Signs of the OSU Events Office. Approximately 24 attendees were logged in.

1. Bob Smythe introduced the main speaker: Alix Gitelman, Vice Provost for Academic Affairs and Senior Vice Provost. A summary of her comments:

Dealing with COVID through spring 2021 the campus operated mostly on a virtual basis. The synchronous aspect used Zoom presentations and Ecampus operated asynchronously in the usual manner. Students and faculty adapted very well, losing little in progress towards academic goals and graduation. She gave a big shoutout to the faculty for making this happen. Many, but not all, faculty and students seem now to be quite comfortable with the Zoom medium, and many now find traditional phone calls (audio only) to be lacking, since we've gotten used to seeing each other during electronic conversations. Alix is convening a workgroup this summer to analyze and take advantage of what has been learned of this new modality. As the campus moves back to the in-person mode, it seems community activity on campus is less visible, with fewer groups engaging. The near future might well require a return occasionally to masking if the pandemic surges, so we will see how that goes. It is unlikely we will return to fully remote operations, since that time appears to have passed. Promotion and tenure processes have adapted to the disruptions, and extensions have been granted frequently when requested. This will continue through June 2023. Faculty dossiers now may incorporate COVID statements, describing any impediments to research activities or accommodations for caring for children at home.

Alix was asked to comment on the OSU presidential search, and she pointed out that the following week would have candidates visiting campus.

She described the proposed Collaborative Innovation Center for interdisciplinary research projects emphasizing sustainability and housing. Ground-breaking is planned for the end of 2023, and the site will be where Weniger Hall is currently located, extending across SW Memorial Pl to the area near Plageman Hall.

Alix reminded the attendees about the upcoming Distinguished Professorship talks.

She was asked how OSURA can be of assistance to the faculty. She pointed out that the pandemic forced faculty to take on more of the roles of counselors and advisors dealing with mental health concerns for students as well as other faculty.

Bob Smythe asked her, "What do you wish you knew at the beginning about dealing with the pandemic that you now know?" She said faculty tend to feel themselves operating more-or-less without direct supervision, but the administration was now finding itself walking a fine line in order to provide guidance and help without micro-managing. Her office set up weekly one-hour meetings involving associate academic deans, by Zoom, to share information and communicate ways in which departments were dealing with the new procedures.

Carroll DeKock asked how fall enrollment is looking. She said it is very strong, to the degree that the rolling enrollment for fall term acceptances had to be cut off mid-May. Ecampus is looking very strong. Large universities nationwide are recovering very well, but smaller schools are struggling.
2. Bill Young's remarks on OSURA's year:

OSURA celebrated its 20th anniversary without yet returning to in-person activities for the most part. The newsletters, which are available on our website (www.OSURA.Oregonstate.edu), do a great job of

providing details. Bill called attention to Aaron Liston's June in-person walk around campus, Wayne Kradjen's October Zoom talk on Medicare-101, Bob Mason's January Zoom presentation on how snakes find mates, and Bonnie Brzozowski's May in-person talk on personal computer security. Bill reviewed OSURA's membership status, which currently shows 158 individual members and 132 household members, for a total of 290; renewal and recruitment mailings will be arriving very soon. The OSURA Directory of retirees will be published in July. Surveys show us that folks appreciate and use the directory.

Bill thanked the OSURA membership for its continued generous support of our student scholarship program. From a start of 3 small scholarships in 2007, the program has grown steadily: in 2012 the scholarship endowment was \$25,000 and is currently \$106,726. OSURA has awarded 65 scholarships totaling \$81,500.

3. Mike Schuyler's remarks on the Scholarships:

Mike thanked the members of the committee: Gordon Reistad, Jo Anne Trow, Mary Burke, and Bobbi Hall. From 49 applications, 37 were complete. The criteria involved specific tenure terms at OSU and a major that promotes healthy aging. Nine scholarships were awarded this year:

Denna Nour Alnasser

Caden Buck

Timothy Drury

Kayleana Green

Olivia Hulbert

Amanda Mellor

Matthew Morgan

Adeline Rang

Anusha Vasudevan

Larry Pribyl narrated brief summaries of these students' accomplishments.

Mike reminded that OSURA members will be receiving invitations to contribute to the scholarship program via a direct mailing, at the back of the Directory, and on-line at the OSURA website.

4. OSURA Business Meeting:

- a. Kelvin Koong, Treasurer, discussed the Financial Report report, which is available at <https://oregonstate.box.com/s/t9gkwrqbqbbc4r9pivc78w0883za858jz>

Highlights included that due to the pandemic there were no expenses this year for in-person events. The OSURA finances are in good shape, allowing \$10,000 to be transferred to the endowment for scholarships last year; this will also be the case this summer.

Bobbi Hall asked how much the endowment provided towards this year's scholarships, and Kelvin said it was about \$4,000.

Bill asked if we could consider increasing the number of scholarships, increase the per-award amount, or increase the endowment. Kelvin prefers the latter, and this topic will be discussed during the year.

Bill thanked Kelvin for his six years of service as treasurer.

- b. Bill thanked Carol Kronstad for her work as chair of the nominations committee. She identified three new OSURA board members to replace three existing board member who will leave due to

term limits. OSURA members present at this Annual meeting must approve these new board members.

Voting for:

Mary Burke
Mike Burke
Rose Kenneke
Approved.

Officers for the coming year must be voted on by current Board members who are present.

Voting for:

President:	Robert Smythe
President-Elect:	Carroll DeKock
Secretary:	Michael Schuyler
Treasurer:	Bill Young
Newsletter-Website:	Kathy Motley
Nominating Committee:	Bill Young, Chair

Approved

- c. Bob recognized and thanked the exiting and continuing board officers. Then he thanked all previous OSURA presidents (the full list is available at the OSURA website as well as via the link for this meeting shown in 4.a., above).
Bob and Bill expressed their appreciation for Mealoha McFadden from the OSU Events Office for her six years of exemplary support for OSURA, and they reminded folks that Mealoha is the subject of an article in the Spring term newsletter.
Bill thanked Shelly Signs for facilitating this Zoom meeting and providing all the slides presented herein.
- d. Bill performed a virtual passing of the gavel to Bob Smythe and adjourned the meeting at 2:02 PM.

Respectfully submitted, Mike Schuyler