



MEMORANDUM

February 17, 2015

TO: Deans & Department Heads

FROM: Susan Gary

RE: UO Board of Trustees – Faculty Discussions

I am writing in my capacity as a trustee on the UO Board of Trustees. Part of my role as a trustee from the faculty is to help the other trustees understand what faculty do and to help the trustees learn about the concerns and issues the faculty have. Board Chair Chuck Lillis and I think it would be beneficial for the trustees to meet in small groups with faculty, to talk about the challenges the University faces and ways the faculty can be involved in improving and strengthening the University (and ways the faculty already works to strengthen the University).

I ask that you please communicate this opportunity to tenure-track faculty in your department so that they can sign up to participate in one of these discussions. My hope is to have groups of 8-12 faculty members meet with 2-3 trustees for a constructive conversation. Both senior and junior faculty will have interesting perspectives to share, and I hope we have some of each.

We plan to have these discussions at the March Board meeting, specifically from 8:00-9:30 am on Friday, March 6. If someone cannot attend this time, there will be future opportunities.

These meetings will not be public meetings (there will not be a quorum present), so faculty and trustees should feel able to share their thoughts and concerns about the University more directly.. I want to gather faculty from all around the University, and I thought reaching out to Department Heads might be the best way to identify people to participate. I recognize that some schools and colleges don't have department heads, so in those cases I am reaching out to Deans who can connect with program leaders or faculty directly.

The goal is to find faculty interested in the work of the Board and interested in thinking and talking in a constructive way about strategies to improve the University.

Faculty members interested in participating in the March 6 discussions should email Amanda Hatch in the Board's office (ahatch@uoregon.edu) no later than February 26. Faculty members should include their name, phone number, department or program, and years of service. My goal is to create groups representing a wide array experience and fields of study, and consisting of faculty who have perhaps not yet been exposed to the Board. Amanda will compile RSVPs for me, and we will follow up directly with individuals about participation and logistics. It is likely that we will get more names than we can accommodate this time, but we'll keep all names for future opportunities.

Thanks so much. I have been impressed with the enthusiasm of all of the trustees and their desire to help strengthen the University. I think these discussions will be a great way for the trustees and faculty members to learn more about each other and share ideas about the University.

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