Call to Order/Roll Call/Welcome

Action Items

- UO Request to Renovate and Expand its Erb Memorial Union

Adjournment
Minutes

Committee members present included: Chair Kirk Schueler, Lynda Ciuffetti, Orcilia Forbes, and Farbodd Ganjifard.

Chancellor’s Office staff present included: Chancellor George Pernsteiner, Vice Chancellor Jay Kenton, Bridget Burns, Michael Green, Karen Levear, Di Saunders, Marcia Stuart, Charles Triplett and Alice Wiewel.

Others present included: Vice Presidents Jamie Moffitt (UO), Craig Morris (SOU), and Robin Holmes (UO), Laura Hinman (ASUO president), Yeojin “Jo” Niehaus (Assistant to the EMU Director), Alan Finn (PSU), and Eric Yahnke (WOU).

1. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL/WELCOME

Chair Schueler called the meeting to order at 2:01 p.m.

2. ACTION ITEMS

   a. UO Request to Renovate and Expand its Erb Memorial Union

Chair Schueler called upon Vice Chancellor Jay Kenton to provide background on the item; he then called upon the University of Oregon Vice Presidents Jamie Moffitt (Finance & Administration) and Robin Holmes (Student Affairs). Ms. Moffitt advised that, when developing the UO 2013-2015 capital budget request, the EMU project was still early in the planning stages and was not submitted for consideration because the spring 2012 student referendum proposing an associated $100 student fee did not pass. Following the student elections for the 2012-13 academic year, the new student leadership expressed strong support for the project. They worked with Student Affairs staff to explore ways to reduce the required student fee. The project under consideration today has been revised to reduce the proposed student fee to $79 and remains contingent on a new positive student referendum in fall 2012. Ms. Moffitt noted that the request for Committee approval at this time is limited to a $1 placeholder in the 2013-2015 capital budget request; enabling the UO to move forward on the project if and when the student referendum is passed. In the meantime, the UO will continue to look for ways to reduce the cost of the project.
Dr. Robin Holmes advised that the renovation and expansion of the EMU has been the desire of the students and University for the past decade. Two years ago, the University participated in a comprehensive survey that demonstrated that a major expansion is needed. The renovation plan will provide an opportunity to gain energy efficiencies and increase usable space. An EMU Renovation Task Force was created by student leadership to explore the project opportunities (with 150 student groups expressing interest in the project). The increased student spaces will help in the creation of additional student groups by providing meeting spaces for the newly formed groups. Ms. Laura Hinman, 2012-13 ASUO president, advised that during the ASUO student campaigns, a pro-EMU referendum campaign was conducted, with many students expressing excitement and support for the project but also concerns with the concomitant increase in student fees.

Director Lynda Ciuffetti asked for clarification on the proposed professional campaign; Dr. Holmes advised that, when the project was originally presented in the spring, students stated that they had not received enough information on the project. The EMU task force aimed to improve communication with the student body and to increase student participation by contracting with a professional company to conduct the marketing campaign. She stressed that this would not be paid for with student fees. Ms. Hinman added that the task force is also seeking information from other universities on how they conduct student referendums. Chair Schueler shared his concerns with the materials provided by the research firm, stating that the proposal appears to be a political campaign rather than a market analysis.

Director Ganjifard queried about the makeup of the EMU taskforce and how the additional spaces in the EMU would be used. Dr. Holmes advised that all student groups and EMU staff currently housed in the building will remain located in the renovated space but that no new administrative office space is proposed; the expansion provides space for additional programs and includes a concert hall, a multipurpose room, etc. Director Ciuffetti expressed concern with the amount of the proposed student fee, stating that her recollection was that the first failed referendum proposed an even lower student fee than currently being considered.

Members discussed postponing their action until after the student referendum but staff advised that a placeholder is necessary for the project to be included on the 2013-2015 legislative budget request. Further clarification was provided that a positive Committee vote would only approve a $1 placeholder without an associated funding amount; any further requests remain contingent on the student referendum. If students approve the project, it would be resubmitted to the Committee and/or full Board for further discussion.

At Chancellor Pernsteiner’s query, it was noted that the student referendum is anticipated to be held on October 18. Director Ganjifard expressed his concern on the timing of the submittal given that the student referendum has not been conducted and that the student fee process has not been utilized prior to the Committee approving the item. Schueler noted the concern but reiterated that the committee is only considering an approval of the $1 placeholder in the capital budget process. Further consideration of the project scope and cost will not be entertained until student voices have been heard. Dr. Holmes emphasized that the intent of the
process was not to undermine students’ opinions or the fee process and that the administration is open to receiving student input.

ACTION: Chair Schueler called for a motion to establish a $1 placeholder for Article XI-F(1) bonds for the proposed UO EMU expansion and renovation in the 2013-2015 capital budget request and explicitly stated that pending a positive student referendum, the project must be brought back to the Committee and/or full Board for approval of the projected cost. Directors Orcilia Forbes and Lynda Ciuffetti made the motion and second, respectively. Those voting in favor: Chair Schueler and Directors Ciuffetti and Forbes. Those voting against: Director Ganjifard. Motion carried.

3. ADJOURNMENT

With no further business proposed, the meeting was concluded at 2:53 p.m.