



March 20, 2020

Governor Kate Brown
c/o Debbie Koreski, Senior Director of Budget and Interim Higher Education Policy Advisor
900 Court Street NE
Salem, OR 97301-4047

Via electronic mail only

Dear Governor Brown,

Thank you for your leadership during these extraordinary times. It is difficult to predict all of the ramifications of what our global community is going through, and we know you will have many issues on your plate during the coming months and years.

We recognize that timelines for executive appointments may be adjusted given both the workload in your office and yet unknown protocols with the Oregon State Senate. However, we wanted to be timely in sending our recommendations to you regarding a seat on the University of Oregon Board of Trustees that will become vacant this summer.

As you know, now more than ever, our public institutions need leaders who understand complex issues of finance, risk, and organizational management and change. The upcoming vacancy affords you the opportunity to add another such individual to our ranks through the appointment process. With this in mind, we wish to recommend three individuals for this position.

1. Michael Caller: Michael is an undergraduate (psychology, political science) and law alumnus who was also a student-athlete during his time at the UO. He has tremendous experience in change management, innovation, and complex business transactions.
2. Steven Holwerda: Steve is an alum of the executive MBA program and the parent of a recent UO graduate. He has been an active volunteer, including time serving as chair of the University of Oregon Foundation Board, and has immense experience with complex financial and organizational matters.
3. Connie Seeley: Connie is an undergraduate alumna (political science) who has remained an active volunteer with the UO. She has exceptional experience in higher education administration—including shared governance—given her role at OHSU, as well as with policy development and implementation.

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Governor Kate Brown
Re: Recommendations for Appointment

Each of these individuals would bring necessary skills and experience to the UO Board of Trustees, and we strongly encourage you to consider their candidacy for this vacancy. (And, if not for this year, for appointments necessary in 2021.)

With more turnover expected next year – including our campus-based faculty, staff, and student trustees positions – we will continue outreach efforts to build a strong pool of applicants who are smart, committed, and experienced individuals and who reflect the values of diversity we share with you.

If you have any questions or wish to discuss this further, please contact Angela Wilhelms, our university secretary, at (541) 346-5561 or wilhelms@uoregon.edu.

Thank you, again, for your leadership and for your support of higher education in Oregon. Universities play an important role in our state's economy, and we look forward to partnering with you and our sister institutions as we move forward together.

Sincerely,



Charles M. Lillis
Chair



Ginevra Ralph
Vice Chair

Cc: Mary Moller, Executive Appointments Director
Kristina Rice-Whitlow, Executive Appointments Manager