

MINUTES

Lane Economic Committee

Lane Council of Governments (LCOG), Fifth Floor Conference Room

859 Willamette Street -- Eugene

February 10, 2020
11:30 a.m.

PRESENT: Mark Bodie, Dan Betschart, Greg Ervin, Vanessa Ringgold, Kelli Weese, Jacob Clifton, Kathy Holston, Kari Westlund, Paul Berger, Larry Brice, Mike Eyster, Robert Killen, Anne Fifield, Raymond Hardman

GUESTS: Moira Kiltie, Karen Hyatt, Joshua Burstein, Howard Schussler, Chrissy Hollett

1. Welcome/Introductions/Changes to the Agenda

Mark Bodie, Chair, convened the Lane Economic Committee (LEC) at 11:33 a.m. Those present introduced themselves.

2. Public Comment

None.

3. Comments from the Members, Chair & Staff

Mr. Berger gave an update on the Nation of Makers Conference. This is an academic conference. He explained that he is working with Darby, the organizer, and he is looking for leads on people who want to be at the conference. He also mentioned there will be a number of street fairs before the conference where people can have booths. He asked everyone to spread the word and pass on any names of interested people to him. The conference is June 5-7. Ms. Westlund added that the night before the conference, there will be a presentation of origin stories of national brands that got their start here as makers.

Mr. Killen shared with the group that former member Barry Miller had passed away in December 2019.

4. Review minutes from January 13, 2020

Action item: Approve minutes

Mr. Bodie moved, seconded by Mr. Ervin, to approve the January 13, 2020 minutes. The motion carried unanimously.

5. Latest Updates on UO Knight Campus for Accelerating Scientific Impact

AVP/Chief of Staff for Knight Campus

Ms. Ringgold representative to the Committee from U of O, introduced Moira Kiltie, Associate Vice President/Chief of Staff for Knight Campus.

Ms. Kiltie presented an update on the UO Knight Campus, including a slide presentation. She began by summarizing that the Knight Campus is a division of UO; the Knight family has given directly to fund this project, and it is a true university driven and employed initiative. The mission of the Knight Campus is “science advancing society.” Its job is to accelerate science and scientists’ discoveries into translation opportunities, and to bring science back into the marketplace and applying ideas to make the world better.

A guiding principle of the Knight Campus is that discovery leads to impact, which leads to inquiry, and all of this is for social benefit.

Ms. Kiltie mentioned that the Strategic Plan is available on the web site. She explained that the Knight Campus’ current priorities are: recruiting, engaging with external partners in industry and academia, training programs, planning for degree granting programs, and constructing the building at Agate and Franklin. The Strategic Plan also generated the initial research focus areas. Bioengineering and materials for biological applications are the primary areas of focus right now.

Ms. Kiltie reported that 5 faculty members have been hired already, and there is information about them on the web site. They are motivated to engage in research. The Knight Campus has quickly begun affiliations with existing departments at UO and with sister institutions around the state. All 5 faculty so far have graduate appointments at OHSU, and the Knight Campus is working toward affiliations with OSU both in physics and engineering. There is also an initiative between the Knight Campus and the Knight Cancer Institute at OHSU in biomedical data science.

The Knight Campus is engaging with OHSU in the graduate education arena. Knight Campus faculty can work with and mentor PhD students from OHSU, and UO students can work in the OHSU program. The Knight Campus is working with the state to establish a joint degree from UO and OSU in bioengineering, so the students can study with both faculties and take classes in both places.

The Knight Campus is training the next generation of “citizen scholars.” There is no undergraduate program, but there is a program called Knight Campus Undergraduate Scholars, in which undergraduates can come into the laboratories and receive training. There are two graduate programs: the UO/OSU program and the UO/OHSU program.

The Knight Campus Internship Program (KCIP), which is an accelerated Master's program, primarily in the physical sciences. This program has existed for about 20 years. It involves immersive academic and career preparation for Master's students in an accelerated 15-18 month format. It includes 5 tracks in high-tech and fast-growing fields developed with industry partners to meet the needs of the employers. Students are studying at the Knight Campus for about 6 months, and then they go to paid internships. Students in this program are offered 2-3 internships from which to choose, and more than 90% of the students have a full-time job within 3 months of graduating. Most of those students are working in the same industry as their internships. Approximately half the students tend to stay in Oregon, with most of the jobs in Portland, Redmond, and Eugene/Springfield.

Ms. Kiltie presented the KCIP keys to success:

- need driven by needs of students and industry
- applied and experiential
- innovative educational methods
- targeted professional development
- emphasis on teamwork and inclusion

Mr. Berger asked for more details about the teamwork and communication skills taught in this program. Ms. Kiltie replied that they are developing a science communication program with the UO School of Journalism and Communication. Students learn how to speak about their science to different audiences, such as legislators or development officers. They also have a track of team-based projects, which involves help from the Business School. There is also a section on entrepreneurial management skills and innovation. Science communication training is also mandatory for Knight Campus faculty.

Ms. Kiltie then spoke about the building, which is called The Phil and Penny Knight Campus for Accelerating Scientific Impact. It is on track for substantial construction completion on or about June 4th (that is not the occupancy date). They are commissioning the big mechanical systems, and the fire marshal will have to approve it. Occupancy will begin just after July 4th, with grand opening ceremonies planned around the first week of October when the UO community is back on campus.

Ms. Kiltie presented the plan for all 5 floors of the building: 3 floors are open to the public with very few access control points, while the top 2 floors are access controlled and where the principal investigators are doing their research. The design includes many windows so people can look in and see what students, faculty, and other researchers are doing.

The basement floor includes shared facilities, glass, a fabrication facility, a 3D printing area with many media, an electronic shop for prototyping, and a clean room with a lithography

bay and SEM capability. This is not a manufacturing facility; it is for research, discovery, and emerging prototypes. There is space for microscopy and x-rays, and a space for incoming faculty to think about what they want in a research facility. In the middle is a commons. All floors have an open work environment, with open bays, open work space, etc. This commons in the middle is open to the public, with the hope that it will feel like the EMU.

The 1st floor has three major entries at ground level, a seminar room, academic classrooms, and breakout rooms. It is open to the basement level below, so people can see what is going on downstairs. There is also a wellness area, which includes lockers, showers, changing rooms, and small rooms that employees can use for breastfeeding, medical needs, etc. There is a “run with a researcher” program, in which students and prospective students, university employees, and maybe eventually members of the public can sign up to go on runs with researchers. There will also be a food service delivery.

The 2nd floor is the “heart” of the building. It includes the bridge to Lewis Integrative Science building, which will be open regular business hours, 7am-7pm (along with the rest of the building). This floor houses the accelerated master’s program, with its offices, laboratories for instruction, director’s office, innovation labs, and a covered terrace that looks out over the Millrace.

As a restoration project of that block of the Millrace, there is a boardwalk all the way around the building so people can enjoy the newly dug-out water. The 1st floor of the building also has a water feature that aerates water from the Millrace and puts fresh water back into the Willamette.

The 3rd and 4th floors house the principal investigators, researchers, and professional staff. There will be approximately 15 research groups no later than 2026.

Mr. Berger asked about funding of projects, and Ms. Kiltie responded that the projects have a broad range of funding, including private foundations as well as federal government.

Mr. Brice wondered if the Intellectual Property would belong to the Knight Campus. Ms. Kiltie explained that all IP will belong to UO, including sponsored projects. Ms. Kiltie explained that the Innovation Center is where things are less university-based. The Innovation Center is 6,000 square feet set aside for use by fee or lease, probably by membership. It includes three bays with hoods and wet labs for companies to use. There is also laboratory space that can be used for a fee by the bench. This is for people who have ideas and want to do prototyping and early formation of companies. Larger companies can also rent small spaces.

Mr. Brice asked if local companies could partner with the Knight Campus on facilities and equipment, and Ms. Kiltie responded that they can, and they can also be tenants. There is a list of tenants interested in the Innovation Center. There will be a business plan by mid-spring, and then they can talk about move-in dates.

Mr. Eyster asked about numbers showing potential economic impact of the Knight Campus. Ms. Kiltie responded that by 2026 they should have 250-300 additional jobs. That is over \$4 million worth of payroll annually. Right now, at the peak of construction, there are 250-300 construction staff on site, and it is a union construction site. It's too early to have numbers for the Innovation Center, but there are already 9 people who have asked to be on the list, and half are not UO employees.

Ms. Kiltie then spoke about the hiring that is being done by the Knight Campus. They are looking at people who could go anywhere. The things that are attractive about Eugene are short commute times, a level of culture, and the expansion of direct flights from our airport. The main issues with Eugene are lack of affordable housing for people making \$40,000-\$90,000 (renting is too expensive), the school system, and health care (trouble finding primary care), and spousal or partner hires.

Ms. Westlund inquired about the interface w/rest of the world, as far as advancing society and announcing discoveries. She wondered if this area will attract international symposiums to display the work, and when and how those will happen. Ms. Kiltie responded that the Knight Campus was designed to start allowing UO faculty to host scientific and engineering groupings, but not for big national ones. The 150-seat seminar room has been designed for smaller, more structured events that bring people from around the world, but they will also incorporate video conferencing. The Knight Campus alone will not overwhelm the hospitality industry, but it will be a piece of what the UO can do academically.

Ms. Westlund then asked if the Knight Campus has a revenue generation mandate to lease outdoor spaces for events. Ms. Kiltie replied that there is an internal revenue mandate, and she hopes to put together a structure for external use within a year.

Ms. Fifield emphasized that the City of Eugene and all of the local communities want to support the Knight Campus in any way they can in helping to recruit people, as they want to maximize the local impact.

Mr. Bodie asked if there are any plans to address the housing issues that present difficulties in hiring. Ms. Kiltie replied that the City is aware of the issue, and they've had conversations with the mayor and the City Council. The City needs to be involved in helping

developers think about the needs of the community. All of this applies to Springfield too.

Mr. Ervin asked whether applicants are looking at renting or owning homes. Ms. Kiltie reported that the principal investigators are looking to own, but some people are willing to rent to begin with. Post-docs, graduate fellows, and entry level people in the tech industry will be more transitory and will be looking for rentals. The rental market is very important, but there will also be career research people looking for home ownership.

Mr. Berger inquired about apartment rental rates, pointing out that \$1300 is lower than in many other locations. Ms. Kiltie explained that salaries are lower here, as the federal government pays whatever local market norms are when it comes to federal grants. We also have a very high benefits structure here (i.e., PERS).

Ms. Kiltie also mentioned that the school system here is a big obstacle, because there are no caps for class sizes here, particularly in elementary school.

6. Discuss 2020 LEC membership and officer appointments

Action item: Recommend nominations to LCOG Board

Mr. Betschart referred the group to the handout listing the recommended appointments of new members and alternates to LEC. In addition to that list, everyone received a full roster of the LEC including the new appointments.

Mr. Betschart spoke about Faye Stewart, who was a member for many years and has expressed an interest in rejoining. He also spoke about Matt Michel, who was also previously a member of LEC and is now the new City Administrator for Veneta. Mr. Michel would like to join in place of Ric Ingham, who is stepping down.

Mr. Ervin moved, seconded by Mr. Eyster, to approve the slate of people presented on the list for membership to LEC. The motion carried unanimously.

7. Set next meeting date: March 9, 2020

Prior to adjournment, Mr. Eyster spoke about the LCC bond measure of \$121.5 million on the ballot in the May 19th election. The amount was decreased from \$145 million after polling showed more public support at the lower number. The bond money is strictly for physical infrastructure, such as facilities, repairs, and safety.

Mr. Berger asked how the bond is being marketed and promoted, and he wondered why there is not a robust web site to do so. Mr. Eyster mentioned that as a public institution, LCC itself cannot promote the bond measure; it can only provide factual information. Mr. Berger wondered about advertising on buses, local news, etc. providing a link that goes directly to bond information.

Mr. Killen said that if you pull up LCC's web site, the first thing you see is a big button that

takes you to info about bond measure.

Mr. Eyster remarked that there is also a 501(c)(3) advocacy group promoting the bond.

Mr. Brice wondered what would happen if the bond measure does not pass. Mr. Eyster responded that with old buildings in bad shape, they will have to prioritize and will not be able to provide students with the quality experience they need to meet the needs of today's workforce. Mr. Brice wondered what the next opportunity would be for a bond measure if this one fails, and Mr. Eyster said that they would have to assess whether it is worth trying again in upcoming elections.

Ms. Holston mentioned that Oakridge needs to be added to the LEC roster.

Mr. Killen pointed out that if the college will need to come up with funds to replace unsafe buildings through increased fees or reduced staffing, or come up with the funds somehow, if the bond does not pass.

Mr. Bodie asked if LCC runs at a deficit. Mr. Eyster replied that they have a reserve that they have dipped into the last several years, but they are obligated to pass a budget that breaks even at minimum. Mr. Bodie said he had heard that staffing levels are above what they were in 2012, but Mr. Eyster replied they are constantly in the process of reducing.

Mr. Bodie set the next meeting for March 9, 2020 and adjourned the meeting at 12:42 pm.

(Recorded by Rachel Burstein)