

**Open Forum Proposed Soccer Project
February 1, 2016
CU, Mazama/Scott, Klamath Falls
Video-conference to Room #225, Wilsonville**

be substantially complete by June 2, 2017. We are actively designing the project, and held the first onsite meeting on January 21 to receive an overview of the drainage plan and technical aspects of the project. Athletics is working on the department finances and has been for the last couple of years to make sure this project will work. A lot of the funding is already incorporated in the athletics budget but we will have to go out and seek money through camps, additional advertising, and donations. This is an athletics department project and the entire staff is focused on bringing soccer back to campus. We feel that we are up to the challenge, we are ready to go and hope to make this happen.

Q&A and Comments

Carl Thomas, Director of Admissions: I have followed this process and intentionally missed the last two forums. I am a huge proponent of this project for our university. I have done quite a bit of research and reading of white papers about what athletics does and I feel strongly that our university really needs this. In so many ways, Oregon Tech leads the way but in other ways we are being left behind. That is from a selfish recruitment position as I recruit for our university. With all due respect to my Alma Mater SOU, Oregon Tech is the best university that I have worked for. What we do here and what we stick to, we do a great job. To go out and recruit for

questions that is asked by the athletes is related to the quality of the facilities. I believe that as a community member that you will gain more community support by having a program onsite and not through the chaos that is Basin United Soccer Club on a daily basis. The athletes would attest to the fact that you go there to practice and play and there are 250-300 kids on the field at any given time and you can double that in parents and it is not the easiest environment to improve their skills.

Greg Stewart, Softball Coach: I am proud employee of Oregon Tech, this is my twelfth year at Oregon Tech. As the softball coach I have been very fortunate to coach at a school that has so many positives on a daily basis. As an ambassador and a coach for softball is such a great sale for me. First and foremost, I get to talk about the great academic environment that we have at Oregon Tech. Bottom line, these students are here whether they are athletes or not because of the great academic and employment opportunities that they have. With that being said, this is my

Matt Munhall, Soccer Coach: Coach Stewart made a lot of the points I wanted to make. I will go ahead and take a different approach. I really do not think that we have taken a look at who these students are. These students are Oregon Tech, they represent almost every degree program at Oregon Tech. We have 14 student athletes in Math and Engineering; 7 students in MIT; 12 in Health Science, and 12 in non tech/other programs. We also are being led by a group of men and women seniors that are carrying over a 3.5 GPA. This group embodies Oregon Tech, they are Oregon Tech students, and they are not here just to play soccer they are here to get a degree. With that, we represent 8 different states, 3 different countries and 7 different races and ethnicities; we add diversity to this campus, we bring something that is not necessarily brought just by academics. The men and women soccer teams have donated 120 cumulative hours to this community through community service, clinics, visiting schools, and coaching youth at Basin United. None of these hours were completed on campus. These are Oregon Tech students, this is a collective we, everything that we are doing here is about us. It is not Klamath Falls vs. Wilsonville, athletics vs. academics, or soccer vs. rugby. We are all wearing Oregon Tech gear, we all go to Oregon Tech, and we all work at Oregon Tech. Until we realize that we are all one cumulative entity we are going to continue to butt heads. I think it is time that we look beyond that and figure out how we are going to move forward and support this campus. We want to be on campus, we want to play in front of a home crowd, we want to play on our home turf, and we want to have something we can be proud of.

5. Todd Breedlove, Faculty member: What about the Rugby Team?

that is really important to consider. I think that going out to the community continually asking what they can do for us that the community will eventually ask, what we can do for ourselves. I think that we need to build this field to show our community that we are willing to help ourselves, and that we are willing to support ourselves before asking the community for additional support.

Nellie Stewart: I grew up here, I work here, and I am an Oregon Tech alumni. This is exciting and I wanted to go on record and say that it has been great to witness how much support has been for this project. This is a very exciting project that can happen for campus, and I am just as excited about this as I was for the Martha Anne Dow Center, and the Owens remodel, and I was a big supporter of the gym. I just want the board to know, that there are so many people here that are hoping that this project will happen.

Brandon Porter, Soccer coach: Oregon Tech is willing to be innovative, forward thinking, and cutting edge. It is in the fiber of our institution. Where I think we are missing the boat is this is an opportunity to practice what we preach. It is not athletics against everyone else. This project will benefit the university, athletics, and academics. We need to make progress so we will not fall behind. We are not bringing kids here that are borderline students, we recruit students that are 3.8 GPA and above. These are great students, and this is an opportunity to help athletics and academics grow. I have been here less than one year and I would not have taken this job if Oregon Tech was an average academic school, I want to coach the best student athletes and the best people. If there was an opportunity to improve the academic buildings, I would be all for it. We will not progress if we sit back and do nothing. We honestly need to practice what we preach. We pre to grow, this is it. This is my stance and I am hopeful for the board meeting scheduled on February 23.

President Maples thanked everyone for taking the time to participate in these meetings.

Di Saunders reported that the notes from the first meeting will be provided at the Finance and Facilities committee meeting tomorrow. The board will make a final decision regarding the soccer project at the board meeting scheduled on February 22-23.

Forum adjourned: 5:58 pm