

**Open Forum Proposed Soccer Project
January 19, 2016
Auditorium, College Union
Klamath Falls, Oregon**

Open forum began at 2:05 pm

Introduction

Women's Soccer Coach, Brandon Porter: We only go to outside gyms twice a week; Oregon Tech is our home facility as a soccer program. Steen is a great field and venue but there are

10. Student soccer captain: All of the Oregon Tech athletes came here for our sport. It means a lot to us to get the support of the campus and I feel like we are entitled to play on campus.

Chris Maples: Our goal is not to put one sport against the other, we want to hear the issues, and what we can do to make this happen.

Michael Schell: I think that we have to work towards a solution that works for both. If we try to expand the turf to fit rugby, we are expanding the project an additional \$200,000. It would add significantly to the overall cost. There are potential solutions out there we just don't have those answers at this time. We are willing to compromise to make this project work for everyone.

11. Track player: From my understanding, track was in the picture, but because field events were affected, the track project was removed from the combined project. I would like to suggest that funding is found to renovate the actual track. That track team is in full support of the soccer project, but we would like to see a few renovations of our own.

Chris Maples: We are trying to do our best to stretch the dollars.

Michael Schell: The track was not completely forgotten about when it was separated in the project. We very much know that improvements need to be made there.

Women's basketball player: It is an amazing opportunity to play on campus with the support that we get. I want to emphasize how awesome it is to play in front of a home crowd. As a fully funded collegiate sport, I find it sad that you are unable to experience the opportunities that we have gotten to experience. It is amazing to be a role model to the children that look up to you in the community at a home facility. The soccer project has my support and the support of our team.

Marketing student: I have watched soccer all four years of being at Oregon Tech. This is a project that will benefit the community and the athletes. To have a premier facility will only help the community as a whole and bring the community together. Oregon Tech plays an integral role in Klamath Falls. Oregon Tech is one of the main reasons that Klamath Falls is surviving to the extent that it is. What the students bring to this community is irreplaceable and these students definitely deserve to have their own facility and have a home crowd.

Soccer player: I wanted to speak for the soccer team and thank everyone for their support. I have travelled around the globe to play my sport and to represent my institution. I signed for Oregon Tech approximately one year ago as a student athlete, and Coach Munhall has done his best to make this a professional soccer environment for his players. The reason I chose Oregon Tech out of all the schools in America was to come play and to study. The environment of having a soccer facility would be great. I am so used to my country where the communities live and breathe soccer and every game people support and look up to us; that community is here. There was a young community member that came to a home game and he was wearing the jersey of my home national team to support. It would just be so much better to come to a campus that

breathes soccer and breathes Oregon Tech. It would just be a great successful story for Oregon Tech.

Golf Coach, Jeff Corkill: I would ask that the board consider this facility. It would be a great improvement for this campus and the environment. This just seems like the logical thing to do.

12. Grants and Sponsored Research Director, Sara Reuter: I am not against this project but I have some concerns that the budget is not complete. You are not including lights or bleachers, I would like to see this project complete before we proceed. This project is estimated at 2 million dollars and in reality it may come in at 2.5 million dollars. I have some real concerns about an 18 year life on the turf, on the research that I have done it is more like a 10 – 12 year life. I don't think that we have all the money to do this, let's put the budget together the way it should be for a functional field and find the funding and then at least we will know what we are in for.

Michael Schell: Our intent is to do lights, we do have bleachers as an alternate in the design plan. It is not ideal, but we can move portable bleachers from the softball field. Lights are in phase II of the plan.

Women's Basketball Coach, Scott Meredith: I believe in this project for the experience of our students. Cutting travel time for athletes and coaches is a huge benefit. The fact that students could walk to the field after class is amazing. I would be really happy to go and watch these students play, all of the logistics will be worked out. The bond is there and so we should use it for a field that benefits two intercollegiate soccer programs.

Baseball player: I just want to mention that baseball would benefit from this project as well. It will be a great use for our players to host practice on this field when soccer is not using it.

Matt Miles: I have been on campus for 47 years, I have seen all the changes. The soccer facility will benefit 50 of our 250 athletes. What a phenomenal thing for Oregon Tech, to put a state of the art facility on campus. The community is moving in the right direction and it makes sense to use this bond for this project and it would be a big win for the community of Oregon Tech.

Student: We are an engineering school and I understand that we don't have bleachers let's build them. We need lights, let's get donations to put them up. I do think that we need a soccer field.

Forum adjourned: 3:05pm