



March 13, 2020

AASHE

2401 Walnut Street, Suite 102

Philadelphia, PA 19103

Re: University of Oregon STARS Report Submission

Dear AASHE STARS Review Team:

The University of Oregon is proud to submit this Sustainability Tracking Assessment and Rating System (STARS) report to the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education (AASHE). The University of Oregon conducts its STARS report every 2-3 years and this year we are reporting a Gold designation.

This is our fourth STARS report and in virtually every department and unit on our campus, we see efforts related to sustainability. The data collection process, though arduous, always reveals new programs and initiatives and helps us identify areas to focus our attention going forward.

In the categories of Curriculum and Research we show over 75% of departments or programs offering at least one course in sustainability. This includes courses from such varied departments as music, theater arts, marketing, Earth sciences, law, English, and indigenous, race, and ethnic studies. Our support for research is likewise robust, including a new collaborative resilience initiative helmed by the Office of the Vice President for Research and Innovation. We expect our strengths in these areas to grow due to a new campus-wide environmental initiative lead by our provost to amplify research, teaching, and student engagement.

Within Operations we recognize the complexity of sustainably managing a large, multi-layered physical campus. In this category, we highlight our annual greenhouse gas emissions inventory, meant to benchmark our efforts and provide transparency to our community. We also call attention to our efforts to reduce both emissions and congestion from campus commuting. Transportation Services conducts an annual faculty, staff, and student commute survey, which provides data we use for initiatives that support more sustainable choices in how people get to campus. Finally, in the past year our Office of Sustainability and University Athletics responded to dismaying changes in municipal plastics recycling by partnering with the county to host two Plastics Round-Ups that diverted plastics otherwise destined for the landfill.

We are particularly proud of our efforts in the Student Life sub-category of Campus Engagement. The sheer depth and breadth of these offerings highlights our commitment to developing dynamic, engaged citizens. We are likewise proud of our support for underrepresented groups (Planning and Administration category), which demonstrates our commitment to recruiting and supporting faculty, staff, and students from groups historically underrepresented at colleges and universities.

While we are gratified by these efforts and pleased to maintain our Gold designation, we do not intend to rest on our laurels. Sustainability is a core value at the University of Oregon and we look forward to sharing further innovations with the STARS community in the coming years.



Our reported data accurately represent the sustainability efforts and values of the University of Oregon to the best of our reporting abilities. We believe it is a fair and comprehensive assessment of our progress to date, and we welcome any feedback or insight that can help us improve. It takes a small village to gather and report all of this data and I wish to express my appreciation for the efforts of this whole team on behalf of our institution. Any comments or questions can be directed to Steve Mital, Director of the UO Office of Sustainability, at smital@uoregon.edu.

Sincerely,

Michael H. Schill
President and Professor of Law