



## **Executive Committee**

**June 19, 2025**

**8:00 a.m.**

**via TEAMS**

### **AGENDA**

- I. Call to Order and Roll Call
- II. Approval of Athletics Director
- III. Approval of Interim Provost & Vice President for Academic Affairs
- IV. Other Business
- V. Adjournment



## Agenda Item Summary

**Date:** June 19, 2025

**Agenda Item:** Approval of Athletics Director

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**Review**

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**Action**

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**No action required**

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**PRESENTER(S):** President Oldham

**PURPOSE & KEY POINTS:**

The President is requesting the Executive Committee to approve the appointment of Casey Fox to the position of Athletics Director, effective July 23, 2025.

**CASEY E. FOX****EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

Dynamic and results-driven athletics executive with 25+ years of leadership experience in NCAA Division I athletic departments. Proven track record in fundraising, external relations, donor engagement, marketing, and strategic planning. Adept at driving record-setting revenue, leading capital campaigns, and building winning cultures that prioritize student-athlete success. Experienced sport administrator and trusted collaborator with university leadership, coaches, donors, and campus stakeholders.

**PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE****MONTANA STATE UNIVERSITY – Bozeman, MT****Deputy Athletic Director – External Relations***July 2021 – Present*

- Lead external operations, including development, marketing, media relations, creative services, and ticketing partnerships.
- Oversaw completion of fundraising for \$26.5M indoor football & track practice facility (scheduled for 2025).
- Completed \$19.6M Bobcat Athletic Complex project (opened Oct. 2021).
- Launched “Three to Win” campaign—grew annual giving from \$1.2M (2017) to \$2.85M (FY24).
- Supervise Volleyball and Women’s Basketball programs; Equipment Room; Athletics liaison to ticketing.
- Oversaw first-ever football season ticket sellout (2023) and record-setting sales in 2024 (13,358).
- Set Big Sky volleyball attendance record (6,457 fans) in 2022.
- Drove 5 consecutive years of football sellouts (2019–2024); enhanced digital footprint with over 32M+ impressions annually.

**Senior Associate AD – External Relations***July 2018 – July 2021*

- Raised \$19.1M for North Endzone/Academic Center capital project (opened 2021).
- Elevated annual fund to \$1.74M in 2019, a record at the time.
- Created and grew Blue & Gold Gala (\$235K in year two).

**Senior Associate AD – Development***July 2017 – July 2018*

- Oversaw all athletic fundraising initiatives and donor strategy.
- Led formation of campaign committee for \$18M capital project.
- Supervised Equipment Room operations.

**WASHINGTON STATE UNIVERSITY FOUNDATION – Tri-Cities, WA****Director of Development***March 2014 – July 2017*

- Primary fundraiser for the \$23M Ste. Michelle Wine Estates Wine Science Center; personally raised over \$9M.
- Secured \$1M gift from *Wine Spectator* and \$5M in-kind fermentation system.
- Expanded support for Viticulture & Enology Program and Carson College of Business.
- Partnered with Auction of Washington Wines to generate \$200K annually.

**Assistant Athletic Director – Development***May 2012 – March 2014*

- Led development efforts in SE Washington region for Cougar Athletic Fund.
- Contributed to \$15M in total giving and \$5.6M in annual gifts in 2013.
- Increased area giving by over \$500K; helped grow membership from 4,198 to 6,006.

**Director of Marketing – Athletics***Nov 2006 – May 2012*

- Developed first comprehensive athletics marketing campaign (“Wave the Flag”).
- Supervised 5 full-time staff and over a dozen interns.
- Served as IMG College liaison and campus engagement lead.

**UNIVERSITY OF UTAH – Salt Lake City, UT****Director of Marketing – Athletics***June 2004 – Nov 2006*

- Led football and men’s basketball marketing; negotiated corporate partnerships.
- Played key role in CBS College Sports Properties rights agreement.
- Supervised 4 staff and oversaw marketing/corporate budgets.

**NAVAL ACADEMY ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION – Annapolis, MD**

**Assistant Director of Marketing & Promotions**

*March 2001 – June 2004*

- Produced game-day experience and managed sponsor operations for football.
  - Increased sponsor revenue from \$800K to \$1.2M.
  - Helped drive largest football crowds in a decade, including first sellout since 1997.
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**EASTERN WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY – Cheney, WA**

**Graduate Assistant – Athletics Marketing**

*Sept 1998 – June 2000*

- Created marketing plans for all sports; set new football and volleyball attendance records.
  - Helped achieve first men's basketball sellout in 10+ years.
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**EDUCATION**

**Eastern Washington University** – M.S., Physical Education (Sport Management), 2003

**University of Oregon** – B.S., Political Science, 1997

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**SKILLS & TOOLS**

Fundraising Systems: Paciolan, Advance, Agilon

Design/Media: Photoshop, InDesign, Publisher

Productivity: Excel, Word, PowerPoint



## Agenda Item Summary

**Date:** June 19, 2025

**Agenda Item:** Approval of Interim Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs

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Review

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Action

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No action required

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**PRESENTER(S):** President Oldham

**PURPOSE & KEY POINTS:**

The President is requesting the Executive Committee to approve the appointment of Dr. John Liu to the position of Interim Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs, effective July 1, 2025.

Dr. Zhanjiang ([John](#)) [Liu](#) has been serving as Vice President for Research and Economic Development and as a Professor in the Department of Biology at Tennessee Technological University since October 2023. He previously served as Vice President for Research, Interim Provost and Chief Academic Officer, and Vice President for International Strategy at Syracuse University between 2017-2023. Before that, he was a Distinguished Alumni Professor in the School of Fisheries, Aquaculture and Aquatic Sciences at Auburn University 1995-2017, where he also served as Associate Dean for Research in the College of Agriculture and Associate Director of the Alabama Agricultural Experiment Station 2007-2013, and Associate Provost and Associate Vice President for Research 2013-2017.

He obtained his master's and Ph.D. degrees from the University of Minnesota, and his bachelor's degree from Northwest A&F University in China. He has over three decades of experience as a teacher, educator, researcher, scientist, administrator and leader. He has obtained more than 50 grants, totaling over \$50 million. In addition to classroom teaching, he has trained more than 100 Ph.D. students and postdocs, and published more than 350 papers and 4 books. He is among the top 1% most cited scientists in the world, with over 22,000 citations. He is an elected fellow of American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS), an elected fellow of the World Aquaculture Society (WAS), and an inductee of the USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture Hall of Fame. He received the Creative Research and Scholarship Award, the highest research award at Auburn, Chacellor's Medal, the highest leadership award at Syracuse University, and Outstanding Achievement Award from the University of Minnesota, among various significant national and international awards and recognitions.

As an administrator, he has significant experience and achievements in strategic planning, enhancing academic excellence, promoting "Student First" culture, enhancing student experience and success, experiential learning, increasing retention and graduation rates, faculty recruitment, retention, promotion and tenure, accreditation, growing research enterprises and scholarship, internationalization, and enhancing interdisciplinary collaborations. Working with his colleagues, he led the strategic planning and implementation of Auburn University research, leading to achieving Carnegie R1 University. He was a key member in strategic planning and implementation for *Trajectory to Excellence* at Syracuse University, leading to doubling of research funding and strengthening of its research R1 status. He is an innovative academic leader who understand the market and future trend of higher education, with track record of creating highly competitive and successful academic programs such as Artificial Intelligence, Deep Learning & Autonomous Systems, Big Data and Data Analytics, and Quantum Information Science. At both Auburn and Syracuse, he led cluster hire initiatives and hired 42 and 155 highly competitive faculty, respectively. He had extensive experience in budget management, including management of research enterprises with \$190M and \$147M research expenditure at Auburn and Syracuse, respectively. He served as Interim Provost at Syracuse University for two years, managing 13 academic colleges with \$600M Academic Affairs budget.

He has provided leadership for various national and international functions, including serving as Editor-in-Chief for Marine Biotechnology, the coordinator for aquaculture under the USDA National Animal Genome Program NRSP-8, a member of the Advisory Board of Oceans and Human Health of the U.S. Department of Commerce, and a member on the Steering Committee of USDA in developing the US Blueprint for Animal Genomics and Genetics. He has also served on numerous national grant panels for federal agencies such as NIH, NSF, and USDA.