



OHSU Public Meeting of the Board of Directors

**Monday, February 9, 2026
10:00am-12:00pm**

**Robertson Life Sciences Building (RLSB)
Room 3A001
2730 S Moody Ave, Portland, OR 97201
Or
YouTube
<https://youtube.com/live/FC0Zp-KowCI?feature=share>**

**Dial-in Only
+1-503-388-9555 Portland Oregon Toll
Access code: 2634 893 2021**



**OREGON HEALTH & SCIENCE UNIVERSITY
SPECIAL MEETING of the BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

Public Agenda

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10:00am	Call to Order/ Roll Call/ Chair's Comments President's Comments	Susan King, M.S., RN, CEN, FAAN Shereef Elnahal, M.D. M.B.A.
	Public Testimony	Susan King, M.S., RN, CEN, FAAN
	Oregon National Primate Research Center (ONPRC) (ACTION)	Susan King, M.S., RN, CEN, FAAN
12:00pm	Meeting adjourned	



3225 SW Pavilion Loop
Mail code: L101
Portland, OR 97239

February 3, 2026

Dear members of the OHSU community and the public,

OHSU has long been committed to advancing science in service of human health, guided by both rigorous evidence and a responsibility to reflect the values of the communities we serve. The Oregon National Primate Research Center has contributed meaningfully to that mission over many decades, and we recognize the importance of its work and the people behind it.

We also recognize that science evolves. Advances in technology, changes in ethical standards, and shifting public expectations are shaping how research is conducted across the country. Increasingly, federal and state leaders, including leadership at the National Institutes of Health, are emphasizing novel and human-based research methods and signaling a desire to reduce reliance on nonhuman primate studies.

In this context, the NIH has approached OHSU to explore whether federal support could be available to transition the Oregon National Primate Research Center to a primate sanctuary. This possibility raises complex questions and, understandably, prompts a range of perspectives.

The OHSU Board of Directors believes that such a consequential issue warrants open, transparent discussion. The Board will therefore hold a special public meeting on Feb. 9 at 10:00 a.m. to consider a resolution that would allow OHSU to enter into negotiations with the NIH regarding a potential transition.

This resolution would not predetermine the future of ONPRC. Rather, it would allow OHSU to engage in discussions to understand what a transition could entail and to define what the institution would need to protect and advance its mission. Any consideration would prioritize scientific integrity, ethical responsibility, support for faculty and staff, the humane and continuous care of the primate population through any transition and beyond, and OHSU's role as a leader at the forefront of emerging science.

OHSU has always advanced by leading, rather than waiting for consensus to catch up. Scientific progress, ethical understanding, and public expectations do not stand still, and neither can institutions that are committed to excellence. As new research approaches emerge and perspectives on nonhuman primate studies continue to evolve, the Board believes that OHSU has a responsibility to engage proactively and ensure that OHSU continues to be a leader in defining the future of research.

OHSU has a long history of navigating change thoughtfully and responsibly, and we approach this moment in that same spirit. We invite members of the community to share their perspectives through written testimony or by providing comment at the Feb. 9 meeting. [Instructions can be found here.](#) The meeting will be open to the public, and participation is welcome either virtually or in person.

Sincerely,

Susan King, M.S., RN, CEN, FAAN
Chair, OHSU Board of Directors

Justin Hurley Braswell, M.B.A.
Vice Chair, OHSU Board of Directors

Shereef Elnahal, M.D., M.B.A.
President, OHSU



RESOLUTION NO. 2026-02-01
OREGON HEALTH & SCIENCE UNIVERSITY
BOARD OF DIRECTORS

(Negotiation of Non-Binding Memorandum of Understanding Relating to the Oregon National Primate Research Center)

WHEREAS, the Oregon National Primate Research Center (“ONPRC”) was first established by the United States government in the 1960s as a regional primate research center to complement and enable the missions of the National Institutes of Health (“NIH”) by maintaining nonhuman primate (“NHP”) breeding colonies and providing investigators with centralized expertise and resources.

WHEREAS, ONPRC receives infrastructure funding from the NIH via P51 Primate Research Center Grants, along with supplemental awards, to perform their dual functions of NHP resource production and research.

WHEREAS, the NIH has decided to prioritize human-based research and reduce animal experiments and to encourage the transition of ONPRC to a sanctuary and has updated its Grants Policy Statement to allow recipients to charge costs for rehoming and retirement of animals used in research per Guide Notice NOT-OD-25-163.

WHEREAS, the OHSU Board has a fiduciary obligation to the University and its statutory mission.

WHEREAS, the Oregon legislature has made clear that it does not approve the expenditure of any State general fund appropriation to OHSU to be used to support the ONPRC, and an increasing number of elected officials representing the residents of Oregon have called for its transition or closure

WHEREAS, as a novel endeavor, OHSU understands that the cost of transitioning the ONPRC to a sanctuary is likely not feasible unless OHSU receives substantial financial support from NIH or authorized partners to support the transition and maintenance of a primate sanctuary, and that any plans to transition would require careful planning to minimize impacts to existing scientific grants and to the faculty and staff working at ONPRC, and to ensure the humane treatment and welfare of all non-human primates.

WHEREAS, while OHSU is bound by existing grant agreements with NIH and other third parties that require the maintenance of ONPRC as a research institution meeting the program requirements of Federal law and the definition of “Research and Development” as defined in 2 CFR 200 and 2 CFR 300, NIH has expressed interest in providing OHSU flexibility such that OHSU will continue qualifying for awards upon transition to a sanctuary.

WHEREAS, in order to consider the transition of the ONPRC and to proceed with further discussions, negotiations, analyses and due diligence activities as are normal, customary and appropriate in transactions of the type, the Board needs additional information from NIH.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Directors of Oregon Health & Science University as follows:

1. For a period of 180 days to begin upon the passage of this Resolution, the President of OHSU or his designee(s) (the "Authorized Officer(s)") is authorized on behalf of OHSU to negotiate an agreement with NIH that provides for the following:
 - a. Continued funding of research projects existing or applied for prior to the date of any definitive agreement between OHSU and NIH, the continuation of all research existing or applied for prior to the date of any definitive agreement between OHSU and NIH, unless mutually agreed changes are negotiated between OHSU scientists and NIH;
 - b. Receipt of substantial input from representatives of the animal sanctuary and animal protection communities as agreed upon by OHSU and NIH;
 - c. Receipt of substantial input through consultation and engagement from representatives of OHSU's Faculty Senate, AFSCME Local 328 and Research Workers United ("RWU"), and a senior lead scientist;
 - d. Investment in new areas of science, such as bio-fabrication and gene therapy, with NIH support via the competitive granting process;
 - e. Consideration for the preservation and protection of jobs at ONPRC
 - f. Transition of faculty that supports scientific innovation;
 - g. Financial and/or management support to provide maintenance, operation and administration of an animal sanctuary.
2. During the 180-day following the date of this Resolution, OHSU shall, in good faith:
 - a. Pause breeding of NHPs outside of what is required in ongoing research at ONPRC, as feasible; and
 - b. Cease submitting grant applications for new studies (not yet commenced) that would require use of NHPs at ONPRC.
3. The Authorized Officer is authorized to take all commercially reasonable actions on behalf of OHSU to negotiate a Memorandum of Understanding ("MOU") and to bring such MOU to the OHSU Board for approval.

This Resolution is adopted this 9th day of February, 2026, effective on February 9, 2026.

Director	Yes	No	Abstain
Susan King			
Chris Abbruzzese			
James Carlson			
Shereef Elnahal			
Justin Hurley Braswell			
Claire Irvan			
Betsy Johnson			
Maria Rodriguez			
Malik Seals			
Sadhana Shenoy			
Sue Steward			

Signed by the Secretary of the Board on February 9, 2026.

Connie Seeley
Board Secretary