

**Presidential Task Force on Financial Sustainability**  
**Prepared for Faculty Senate**

Dear Colleagues,

Thank you for your consideration of this appointment and for your work on our behalf. I would also like to say I have great respect for my colleague, Devora Shapiro, I think you have two good options and cannot go wrong with your vote.

I am offering my time, experience and skills to the Task Force and the University because I believe, as I am certain many agree, the financial sustainability of this institution is among the highest priorities we must have in these challenging times. However, it is more of a challenge than simply “making the dollars” fit. Financial stability and sustainability need to include planning beyond simply keeping costs within resources and serving the ending fund balance. We need to find ways of growing programs, both those well-established and those yet to be established. I believe we need to find ways of producing resources that are not as dependent on the state, and their dwindling support, and that do not keep hitting students in the pocketbook. Simply, we need to provide better value at a better price point. That takes a lot of dedicated work, time and commitment. I am prepared and excited for the process ahead and playing a positive role in assisting the task force to prepare an effective path forward for our University.

My experience in such matters is extensive. I have served on the University’s budget committee, the Tuition Advisory Council, and Faculty Senate, as well as, many other committees. I also served on the SOU Board of Trustees and was the co-chair of the Finance Committee. I have worked for many years with community not-for-profits and the City of Ashland with a focus on financial issues and strategic planning in a wide variety of ways. I see this as an opportunity to continue the kind of strategic planning I have long been involved with and value a great deal. These are very difficult and challenging times that require working as a good team member with other committed professionals and stakeholders. Progress does not come easy, and I believe it only comes when dedicated people focus on a positive path forward, build with collaboration, and focus on mission.

Thank you for your consideration.  
Dennis Slattery