

Academic Senate
Eastern Washington University
Minutes of March 9, 2026

Senators Present: B. Shaw, S. Finnie, L. Matos, B. Grinder, B. Lundgren, J. Klein, G. Sinekopova, E. Rodriguez-Marek, L. Speer, M. Breen, M. Holmgren, A. Van Wig, T. Haskins, G. Kenney, M. Binney, J. Ellsworth, M. Breen, M. Holmgren, A. Van Wig, T. Haskins, G. Kenney, M. Binney, J. Ellsworth, P. Porter, L. MacKenzie, L. Cebula, S. Milton, D. Garraway, M. Winer, J. Durfee, S. Wachtel, K. Garrison, H. Lott, N. Li, D. Sitzman, H. Hillman, L. Anidi, V. Loke, P. Gerber

Officers: G. Hustrulid, B. Idsardi, C. Tyllia, K. Taylor

University Officials: S. McMahan, L. Smith, L. Jarnagin, C. Portillo, C. Jensen, K. Edquist, C. Castillo-Garsow

1. Call to Order. a. The meeting was called to order at 3:05 p.m. by G. Hustrulid, Faculty Organization President.

2. Chair's Report. *G. Hustrulid report can be found at https://drive.google.com/file/d/1uLQGMMnP2r542q4tK8LmKsOgdCj6lv_y/view?usp=sharing*

3. Approval of Consent Agenda including Minutes of February 23, 2026. <i>Hearing no objections, the minutes were approved.</i>

4. ASEWU. C. Jensen reported: a. My report today is that ASEWU Senate meeting times for spring quarter will be Mondays 3:30 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. in PUB 207J. Due to class schedules this is the only time that works for ASEWU to meet quorum. I am a voting member for ASEWU, I will be unable to attend Faculty Senate and Rules next quarter but will still be attending committees as the ASEWU representative. For Rules and Senate, Rachel Hudak, ASEWU Court Justice, will be attending as the ASEWU representative. Any agendas and discussion items can be sent to Rachel or myself.

5. UFE. K. Edquist reported: The UFE will resume bargaining the current CBA with Management on Tuesday, March 10. As we have done throughout the bargain, we will come prepared to address faculty priorities identified by the survey we sent to all faculty in Spring 2025 and discussion with our members and leadership. They include a CUPA repeg, fair general salary adjustments, maintaining the system of Faculty Activity Plans, and maintaining and protecting workload decision-making processes, among others. **Announcements:** • The UFE will hold a dues-paying members meeting on Friday, March 13 at 12pm via Zoom. If you are a UFE member but have not yet received your invitation, please contact me or UFE Treasurer Ielleen Miller. Since the UFE's last report to the Faculty Organization, the United Faculty of Eastern (UFE) has • monitored the implementation of our most recent MOU with EWU • communicated with FO about the estimated PRD timeline • submitted a statement to the one calendar committee • followed up with Management regarding summer pay for some faculty • responded to two inquiries regarding constructive action and UFE representation • continued to represent 1 faculty member under investigation for alleged violations of EWU policy • continued to represent another faculty member regarding another matter • followed up with faculty about SAM.gov and promotion expectations.

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6. Legislative Liaison. S. Ligon reported: 1. Current Budget Outlook: The state budget is not finalized, but all three budget proposals are closely aligned regarding EWU. Last year's biennial (25-27) appropriation was \$182,373,000. • Governor's Supplemental Budget, December 2025: \$184,890,000, or plus \$2,517,000. • House Supplemental Budget, 2/28/26, p.214: \$185,480,000, or plus \$3,107,000. • Senate Supplemental Budget, 2/27/27, p.176: \$185,530,000, or plus \$3,157,000. There are some unusual provisions in the House and Senate budgets, which allow EWU to remain whole, though at first glance it appears that EWU would take a cut of \$9.8m dollars. But here's the fine print: "One-time savings are achieved by reducing NGF-O appropriations and replacing the state funding with revenue in the Institutions of Higher Education Operating Fees Account. Note: An equal amount of additional funding is provided for the Institutions of Higher Education Operating Fees Account from the Institution's Building Account in Special Appropriations. (General Fund-State; Inst of Hi Ed-Operating Fees Account-Non-Appr) (One-Time)" That means you can add \$9.8m to the House and Senate budgets for EWU to arrive at the numbers reported above. The enacted budget for the previous biennium (2023-25), p 1304, appropriated \$176,307,000 to EWU, meaning funding for the current biennium increased around 5% over last biennium. **2. Current Status of Bills of Interest.** • SB 5826, Concerning access at public postsecondary educational institutions to medication abortion. This bill requires public institutions of higher education to offer access to medication abortion through certain available methods with the student health center; requires public institutions of higher education without a student health center to train current student support staff on information and referral services for medication abortion; and requires public institutions of higher education to maintain a webpage on reproductive health within an existing website. Stalled in Ways & Means, 2/3/26. 2 • SB 5828, Concerning the Washington college grant and college bound scholarship for students attending private four-year not-for-profit institutions of higher education in Washington. This bill modifies maximum Washington College Grant and the College Bound Scholarship award amounts for students attending four year not-for-profit institutions. Passed the Senate, now in House Rules, 3/2/26. • SB 5909, Reviewing and discontinuing low-enrollment undergraduate programs at public baccalaureate institutions. This bill requires the governing boards of the state and regional universities (boards) to compile an annual list of undergraduate degree programs producing a five-year average of fewer than ten graduates per academic year (low enrollment list), and, in certain cases, to recommend those programs be discontinued. It also directs the boards to report specified information to the Legislature when an undergraduate degree program is on a low-enrollment list for three consecutive years. In Senate Rules X file, 2/26/26. • SB 5978, Establishing the Washington guaranteed admissions program and requiring student notifications. This bill establishes the Washington Guaranteed Admissions Program (WAGAP); requires data sharing agreements between secondary school and postsecondary schools through either WAGAP or the Washington School Information Processing Cooperative; and requires notifications for certain students at high schools. Stalled in Ways & Means, 1/30/26. • SB 6089, Relating to increasing coordination and alignment throughout the P20W system including early learning, K-12 education, 3 postsecondary education and career pathways, and workforce. This bill creates a non-appropriated P20W public-private partnership account; directs the OFM to contract with a nonprofit organization to facilitate increased P20W system coordination and develop recommendations; and directs OFM to contract with a nonprofit organization to create a P20W data dashboard. In Senate Rules X file, 2/26/26. . • SB 6209, An act relating to financial aid awards for students attending private for profit four-year institutions of higher education. Stalled

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in Ways & Means, 1/30/26. • SB 6235, Prohibiting certain private equity and sovereign wealth fund agreements in intercollegiate athletics. Executive session scheduled, but no action was taken in the Senate Committee on Higher Education & Workforce Development, 1/29/26. • SB 6325, An act relating to enhancing higher education procedures by modifying funding for increases in compensation and central services. This bill requires funding increases for certain costs at institutions of higher education to be paid with appropriated state funds at certain funding levels starting in 2029-31 with increases each biennium until all are fully funded by state funds. Stalled in Ways & Means. But its companion bill, 2617, also got a hearing. These bills address the fund split and we are assured that more action will be taken on this issue next biennium. 3 • HB 2098, Adjusting higher education funding. This bill eliminates the \$75 million cap for the Workforce Education Investment surcharge imposed on select advanced computing businesses; expands income eligibility ranges for Washington College Grant award amounts; and reduces resident undergraduate tuition operating fees at public institutions of higher education over the course of three academic years, after which tuition rates may increase again under the current formula. Executive session scheduled, but no action was taken in the House Committee on Postsecondary Education & Workforce, 1/27/26 • HB 2132, Concerning applications for state financial aid. This bill limits disclosure and retention of personally identifying information related to the Washington Application for State Financial Aid. Stalled in Appropriations, 2/2. • HB 2612, Protecting revenues devoted to the workforce education investment account. This bill stipulates that expenditures from the workforce education investment account must be used to supplement, not supplant, any other federal, state, and local funds appropriated or allocated for higher education. The legislature affirms that appropriations from this account are intended to provide additional, enhanced, and expanded support for higher-education programs and services, and may not be used as a replacement, offset, or reduction of existing or projected funding obligations from other sources. Stalled in Appropriations, 1/21/26. 3. **Where are we going, and how will it all shake out?** The budget looks like it will turn out better for EWU than we feared at various times before and during the session. Next year will bring a new biennium and, most likely, more challenges. But we seem to be moving in the right direction regarding the fund split, and if we can ultimately resolve that issue, it will mean restored annual funding for EWU. Furthermore, we're fortunate to have such strong financial reserves, growing larger every year, larger than any of the publics except for UW, positioning us well to invest in our future.

7. Budget Report. C. Tyllia reported: a. the Faculty Organization Executive Team met with VP Baca and CFO Habegger last week and they are going to continue those discussions. They were very fruitful and helped them to understand what is happening because they are seeing some things differently. They're going to continue those meetings, and he believes the questions that were submitted will be answered eminently soon. b. They are pleased in that meeting to find out about something called the Open Checkbook, which is going to be a financial dashboard available to all of us to see the financial health of the institution. T. Habegger is working on that and hopefully it will be up sometime this week. We are looking forward to the transparency. M. Holmgren asked where that information will be posted. M. Baca stated it will be posted on Inside EWU and also a global email will be sent. They designed it in order to try to make it very simple, with revenues, expenses, etc. so that people can drill down without needing this extraordinary permissions. . c. He will be attending the Academic Affairs Faculty Budget Committee meetings to talk about some of the questions we had. The questions are more

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directed towards Faculty Affairs than to Business and Strategy and they will be working to find the answers wherever they are.

8. Presentation from MarCom. E. Lindbergh, AVP for University Relations and B. Reser, Director of Marketing gave a PowerPoint presentation on the marketing they are doing for Eastern. That presentation can be found at : <https://drive.google.com/file/d/13rbl2vzoM717y6tGUM2dl0IqJaSd2Sqp/view?usp=sharing>

9. Administrative Reports. President. S. McMahan reported she would like to remind everyone there are a few seats left on Saturday, March 14th, for the theatre event, Spring Awakenings, and we'd love to have you attend. If you want to attend, you can email C. Bennett, her assistant. We have a reception and then the show on Saturday.

10. New Business. a. AP 303-23 Classroom Attendance; Sec 1-10 Graduate Students. S. Wachtel states she has a problem with being more lenient than the policy. Not sure how you can be more lenient than the minimum when there is no minimum. L. Matos stated Biology had significant discussion about this policy and he submitted his comments to the website. It's particularly troubling that we're very narrowly defining who students can mourn. **Motion carried to send this back to UAC.**

b. AP 303-30 Registration; Sec 2-5 Course Loads; b. Graduate Students. G. Hustrulid stated this change is for lowering the students being able to register for 2 days if they are in an internship, etc. **Hearing no objections, motion carried.**

11. New Business. a. AP 303-22 Graduate Students; Removal of Appendix A. G. Hustrulid stated this is to remove Appendix A from the Graduate Student policy because the Interdisciplinary Program is being discontinued. *This will come back to the next meeting as Unfinished Business.*

b. AP 303-24 Grading, Grade Changes, & Grade Appeals; Add Section 1-9 Graduate Students. G. Hustrulid stated this is adding a section for Graduate Students since the majority of the policy is for Undergraduate Students. *This will come back to the next meeting as Unfinished Business.*

c. BACR Criteria Language. G. Hustrulid stated this is clarifying the language for the Gen Ed BACRs. *This will come back to the next meeting as Unfinished Business.*

d. Criteria Language for Diversity and Global Studies. G. Hustrulid stated this is clarifying the difference between Diversity and Global Studies. *This will come back to the next meeting as Unfinished Business.*

12. Information Items. a. 2-Year Term for FO President. C. Castillo-Garsow stated that after the discussion at the last Senate meeting, he was tasked with revising the proposal to change the terms of the FO President and Vice President. Attached you will find the document that explains the changes that were proposed.

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<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1dEZGPeziHysTI7LMITPga7Lu46ITak5K/edit?usp=sharing&ouid=101630062858166648088&rtpof=true&sd=true>

10. Good of the Order. a. J. Ellsworth stated there are some good concerts happening currently in the Music Program in the coming week. She would like to promote the Side-by-Side Concern which is where our Music students get to play side-by-side with the Spokane Symphony. This is the second one we've done. If you are interested in that; it is on Thursday evening at 7:30 p.m. in Showalter Auditorium.

11. Meeting adjourned at 5:15 p.m. The next regular meeting is scheduled on April 13, 2026.