



EASTERN OREGON UNIVERSITY

University Council

MINUTES

October 14, 2025

3:15 - 5:00 pm

Boardroom and Zoom

Meeting called to order at 3:17pm by Chair Jordan Withers

Committee Members Present: Mollie Rockafellow, Diego Vergara Zuber, Megan Scarf, Hailey Durrant, Sheri Rysdam, Jaco Thompson, Mary Fisher, Paul Hobson, Tyler Thamert, Cassie Gray-Jeffries, Nathan Smutz, Emily Sharratt, Dezette Johnson

Quorum: Yes

University Council Overview:

Membership Introduction

The committee introduced themselves, including their represented constituencies, role on campus, strengths, and what they have been inspired by recently.

Purpose and Role of UC

Chair Withers provided a holistic overview of the role of UC, including the governance structure and documents that the committee will build its work on.

EOU Values and Principles

Chair Withers reminded the committee of the values and principles that EOU upholds as foundational principles. The expectation of how these show up in the work was discussed.

Shared Governance Training

An overview of the governance system and resources to Robert's Rules of Order was provided.

Discussion Items:

Policy 6.05.15 Sexual Harassment Policy

Chris Burford provided an overview of the policy submission process, including how policies may be amended, proposed, or repealed. In this case, this policy is being repealed due to the Title IX Policy taking over the function of this existing policy. As having two policies with different information is against best practice, and poses a legal risk, this policy should be repealed with the Title IX Policy taking its place.

Policy 6.10.10 Hazing Policy

Director Hoffman shared that this policy is legally required following the passage of the law in December 2024. The policy aims to prohibit any hazing across campus or with affiliated campus groups. Furthermore, the policy builds in the requirement for training, reporting, and overall compliance with regulations.

Policy 3.15.01 Procurement and Contracting of Goods and Services Policy

Director John Garlitz presented that this policy is aimed to fill in the gaps from the OUS time period. Due to the specific requirements of Facilities, this policy aims to help clarify avenues for addressing specific elements that are wrapped up in construction, maintenance, etc.

Policy 3.15.10 Facilities Procurement and Contracting Policy

This policy, also presented by Director Garlitz, goes hand-in-hand with Policy 3.15.10, allowing for easier procurement and clarification of processes. This will allow for a five year master service agreement contract with various vendors to expedite services.

Policy 2.35.15 Military Call-Up Policy

Chair Withers presented this policy with minor changes, primarily centered around the wording for reimbursements and how incompletes may be issued. These are primary technical changes to ensure compliance with federal/state regulations.

Clarification regarding the issuance of an incomplete was had. Amendments may be made in the next meeting upon voting to clarify details.

Committee Expectations and Norms

Chair Withers shared the expectations of University Council this year as reiteration of the team's functionality. Other committee members shared their expectations as well to ensure they were clearly communicated.

Reports and Updates

Chair's Report

No updates past what was already presented were shared.

Subcommittee Updates

VP Rockafellow shared the ongoing work on the Great Colleges to Work For subcommittee in their evaluation of comments shared. The general trends that emerged included: desire for professional development, bullying present in the workplace, and desire to foster overall campus civility.

President Ryan's Report

President Ryan began by providing an update regarding the revised admission standards (lowering the GPA). She detailed the timeline for the work that has been completed and the stakeholders involved. Ultimately, EOU is not intended to be a small liberal arts college composed of honor students, rather, it is

intended to afford access to students. Following marketing evaluations, the decision to lower the GPA requirement is in the best interest of EOU and its students.

President Ryan also shared that community colleges are aiming to offer Bachelors of Applied Science degrees in early childhood education. The universities are opposed to this idea as it creates an additionally complex, competitive market that continues to limit enrollment.

Other highlighted updates include:

- The federal government is offering a compact with universities. EOU is opposed to this.
- New enrollment is down 5.1% in headcount and 3.7% in credit hours.
- We are intentionally trying to save for a difficult 2026 budget cycle, partially due to a demographic challenge.
- A request to cut the budget 5% in 2026 and 5% in 2027 are considerations on the table.
- The OPM contract with Rise Point is almost completed.
- The TRiO grant has been awarded to EOU

Action Items

Approval of June Meeting Minutes

Motion: Emily Sharratt moves to approve the June 2025 meeting minutes

Second: Mollie Rockafellow

Vote: Unanimous approval

November Meeting Date (11/11)

Due to the next meeting following on Veteran's Day (university closure), a consideration was necessary to move the meeting.

Motion: Sheri Rysdam moved to cancel the November 2025 meeting

Second: Tyler Thamert

Vote: Unanimous approval

Election of Vice Chair

Mollie Rockafellow nominated Sheri Rysdam as vice chair. Sheri accepted the nomination.

Motion: Hailey Durrant nominated Sheri Rysdam to be the vice chair

Second: Emily Sharratt

Vote: Unanimous approval

Election of Faculty Senate Representative

Motion: Tyler Thamert moved to approve Emily Sharratt as the Faculty Senate Representative

Second: Cassie Gray-Jefferies

Vote: Unanimous approval

Information Items

ASEO Update

President Vergara Zuber provided a summary of the ongoing work that ASEOU is doing, including filling vacancies with senator roles. A pumpkin smash event is scheduled for the coming weeks that the campus community is welcome to engage with.

Faculty Senate Update

Emily Sharratt shared that Faculty Senate discussed their note taking process, ongoing policies, and the revised admissions requirements.

Accreditation Campus Visit and Report

Chair Withers reminded everyone of the upcoming accreditation visit and encouraged their engagement in the process.

Staff Appreciation Luncheon

A final reminder was extended to staff to join the university in the staff appreciation luncheon.

For the Good of the Order

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 4:47pm.