

Academic Senate

Eastern Washington University

Minutes of January 26, 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, L. Reeves for G. Kenney, M. Binney, J. Ellsworth, P. Porter, L. MacKenzie, P. Shaw, S. Milton, D. Garraway, M. Winer, J. Durfee, S. Wachtel, K. Garrison, H. Lott, N. Li, D. Sitzman, H. Hillman, L. Anidi, V. Loke, K. Lopez, T. Hechtman, P. Gerber

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

University Officials: L. Smith, M. Baca, L. Jarnagin, C. Portillo, S. Ligon, K. Edquist, J. Healy

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/1yiBL5h_dKBXJcQ6uiYNuEtC8UkvOOIpa/view?usp=sharing*

3. Approval of Consent Agenda including Minutes of January 12, 2026. <i>Hearing no objections, the minutes were approved.</i>
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4. ASEWU. *None.*

5. UFE. *K. Edquist reported:* I am pleased to report that the UFE has reached a tentative agreement on a Memorandum of Understanding with EWU regarding a general salary adjustment for this academic year, including retroactive pay for Fall 2025 work and an extension of the 2022-2025 CBA through summer 2026. The UFE Executive Board has voted unanimously to recommend its ratification. We will be holding an “emergency” (i.e., short-notice) member meeting on Tuesday, January 27 at 3pm to review the MOU and ask our dues-paying members to approve the MOU. We are hopeful for an affirmative vote so that the relevant payroll processes can commence. Regarding the larger CBA bargain, the UFE stands ready to resume bargaining. Since the UFE’s last report to the Faculty Organization of January 12, 2025, the United Faculty of Eastern (UFE) has: • responded to multiple inquiries about the status of the current bargain; • responded to faculty inquiries regarding discipline procedures, department voting procedures, the permanence of faculty status, and other matters related to faculty compensation and hours and conditions of work; • represented 1 faculty member under investigation for alleged violations of EWU policy; • represented 1 faculty member(s) in workload disputes.

6. Legislative Liaison. *S. Ligon reported:* **1. Bills of Interest.** It’s early in the session, but there’s been a lot of activity in both chambers, with the following bills of particular interest to our sector: • 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. **Referred to Ways & Means.** • SB 5828, **Concerning the Washington college grant and college bound scholarship program for students attending private four-year not-for-profit institutions of higher education in Washington.** This bill modifies maximum Washington College Grant and the

Academic Senate

Eastern Washington University

Minutes of January 26, 2026

College Bound Scholarship award amounts for students attending four-year not-for profit institutions. My testimony below. **Referred to Ways & Means.** • 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. **Referred to Ways & Means.** • 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 notices and notifications for certain students at high schools at certain times of the year. • 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 Office of Financial Management (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 public facing P20W data dashboard. • SB 6235, **Prohibiting certain private equity and sovereign wealth fund agreements in intercollegiate athletics.** • 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. • 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. **Referred to Appropriations.** • 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. **2. I testified on SB 5828 as follows:** Thank you Chair Nobles and members of the committee. I'm Sam Ligon, EWU's faculty rep, speaking also for the Council of Faculty, which represents all public university faculty in the state — testifying Con on Senate Bill 5828. It's encouraging to see so many students, staff, and supporters signed up in favor of this bill, fighting to restore funding. That's what we do in Olympia — fight for what's right and for what we need. Which is almost always money. I understand why people want funding restored. I feel the same way. Unfortunately, there is no bill yet seeking to restore funding cuts to the state's own universities whose very purpose is to serve the state. Independents serve the state as well. But that's not why they exist. Nor are they constrained the way publics are. Private schools can charge any tuition they like, whether it's \$54,000 a year at PLU, \$56 k at Gonzaga, or \$66,000 at Whitman. Tuition at publics is capped. EWU charges a fraction of most privates — around \$8500 year. Publics do, however, receive base level funding from the state. Which has been cut by tens of millions of dollars in an invisible way involving the fund split, which shifts funding

Academic Senate
Eastern Washington University
Minutes of January 26, 2026

from the state to the universities. I know it might be naïve of me to believe the state should restore funding to its own institutions first, but that's not the only concern I have with this bill. Any student attending a public school whose family earns below 60% of Washington's median family income receives a grant covering tuition. At EWU, that's worth \$7,700. At privates, students receive a flat \$9,700. Meaning a Gonzaga student receives 26% more in funding than an Eastern student, though such funding covers only 17% of Gonzaga tuition, while the Eastern tuition is covered in full. Restoring the award for privates, before restoring funding to publics feels like a move in the wrong direction, especially when such support covers such a small portion of tuition, while still exceeding awards for most of our state's publics. **3. Where are we going, and how will it all shake out?** I'm encouraged by several bills listed above, and some that aren't yet listed, especially related to the fund split and protecting the Workforce Education Investment Account (WEIA). There seems to be a growing understanding among legislators about what the fund split is and how it affects the public universities. And while I don't think that problem will be resolved this year, I do think we're moving toward a solution in the near future. The budget and revenue remain the primary concerns in Olympia. We'll know more with the next revenue forecast, due in February.

7. Budget. C. Tyllia reported: the new budget model has been determined, and M. Baca will be presenting that later in the meeting. He is still collecting and collating questions, feedback, or requests that you may have regarding the budget model. If you have any questions or comments, you can send them to him, and they will be shared with VP Baca and the Budget Model Steering Committee. The steering committee is working on building a FAQ page and this can help feed that as well.

8. Budget Presentation from Vice President for Budget and Strategy M. Baca.
<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1ku3Q8cZp9JXQC7OyXxxL6lTqRW2p8-9N/view?usp=sharing>

9. Administrative: a. President. S. McMahan reported: **i.** today we're launching the budget model. **ii.** It is an incredible day for Eastern. Yesterday at about 5:00 p.m. we had a traffic spike on our website and had over 44,000 impressions, primarily because of the Cooper Kupp touchdown, but also because we ran our Polytechnic ads at both the NFC and AFC games and we will be running those ads at the Super Bowl. We have players on both teams, New England Patriots with Eftom Chism III and the Seattle Seahawks with Cooper Kupp. Our Athletic Director will be planning a watch party, and we encourage everyone to come down to support our former athletes and students. **iii.** M. Holmgren stated back in November or December when you had that panel with the superintendents in the Spokane schools, steps to try to get high school students into higher education. There was a discussion about handing out a survey, so I wanted to follow-up and see if there was a survey among high school students and how long that was going to take, when they would see the results. S. McMahan stated I will say it's very divided that my understanding, particularly from the Spokane superintendent, is that high school is a very difficult place to be for students, where they would get tripped up on a boulder. When you look at completion of high school students, it is getting more challenging for us to have a voice. As I investigate further within the State of Washington, we don't have systems that blend the K-12 and the college in a way that supports it. We're really working hard to chip away at this. In many states, something we think is logical as digital transcripts should be just a mechanism that sends students to college. It's my third year trying to work on that bill to make

Academic Senate

Eastern Washington University

Minutes of January 26, 2026

sure that every high school student has a digital transcript. The pushback that we get from K-12 is enormous because it costs money. One of the bills that is being brought forth in the state legislature is requiring FASFA completion in high schools. With more students going on to higher ed, have that as part of the K-12 requirement. We can't get that passed. At the state level, when I meet with legislators, senators, to address the issue is much larger than that. There is no higher ed consortium. There's some discussion about it, unfortunately, in my meetings last week, it ended up with a really unpleasant discussion to get rid of the high school requirements to go on to college because everything is a barrier. I think that will do a disservice to our students if we just say they need a 3.0 because we're going have to do the wraparound supports, it's going to cost a lot more and they may not be successful, and then they're going to drop out, they're going to have debt, and then we're going to get blamed again. It's very multifaceted. **b. Provost.** L. MacKenzie asked why and how our registration with SAM.gov was allowed to lapse. Who is responsible and what consequences are there? What assurances do we have that this will not occur again? When did you find out that you were behind on the documentation and when the timeline ran up to the deadline that was missed? L. Smith stated in terms of whose responsibility it is that's mine. That's in Academic Affairs and what I should have done in retrospect, when I arrived here in June of 2025, I should have asked around and consulted with stakeholders in Academic Affairs and outside of Academic Affairs and asked about where there are examples of cases for which you need to an approval process. That did not take place in the summer and had I done that, I think that we would not be in this situation today. There are some additional T's that need to be crossed with respect to executive orders and that played some role in slowing it down but ultimately, had I addressed it when I arrived, and asked the right questions, we probably would not be in the situation right now. I do apologize for that. I learned about it, at least explicitly, in late December, but I just overlooked it. This is something that could have been prevented had I been on top of it when I arrived. As far as what we're doing to minimize the chance of it happening again, I did ask OGRD first to do an inventory to see if there are other examples of where there may be a long runway needed for the approval process. If there are let's get them out, let's consult, and start tackling it as early as possible. **c. Vice President for Business and Strategy.** N. Li stated he has a question about the surveillance system that was installed last week. Last Wednesday, there was a protest on campus regarding free speech that morning, a 20-foot-tall mobile surveillance camera and sound system owned by EWU was installed in the cloud. The Department of Political Science and Public Policy has grave concerns about the chilling effect on the protest because some of the faculty members have heard students' concerns in classrooms. The department's faculty unanimously voted to convey our concerns and recommendations to the leadership team. Specifically, we request the following: first that the campus community be notified of and included in discussions regarding the installation and use of such surveillance systems; second, that EWU develop clear policies governing the storage, use, and disposal of such data collected through these systems with explicit protections for student privacy; and third, that EWU leadership communicate directly with the many students who were disturbed by the presence of the surveillance system as soon as possible. M. Baca stated when I arrived, we purchased a video surveillance system due to our high turnover in some of our police officers in order to augment our police force, especially on larger events like football games, other events that we have on campus, and we received that equipment a few

Academic Senate

Eastern Washington University

Minutes of January 26, 2026

weeks ago. There's some parameters within there that you basically can turn on, you come near this, you're being recorded in a very stern voice. We had some lapses in communication on how we were rolling that out. That division reports directly to me so I apologize for the mishap that it may have caused for individuals. In no way the police force was trying to create more problems for what was happening on that day. We're going to circle back and have further communications internally and make sure that we work in partnership with the campus community. N. Li stated regarding the surveillance system, why was the system purchased in the first place. C. Baca stated when I came into this job, I assessed all my departments and law enforcement, given this campus size, and the types of events and the large crowds, we had some dollars that were allocated for a fence, and instead of purchasing the fence, my recommendation to our chief was to buy one of those video surveillance cameras. I've used them in the past. It helps provide additional video surveillance in areas that we may need so that's when we bought it. It takes a little while and we need to put our branding, but again the communication on the campus, we're going to do a better job in the future. K. Lopez asked what are you doing with the data recordings? C. Baca stated that data is stored but purged within 48 hours. There is a policy that goes along with that. K. Edquist stated the UFE is concerned about the conditions of work, and they were concerned about the data against the faculty members. The UFE would request that the system be removed. **d. Vice President for Student Affairs.** iv. V. Loke stated before the planned demonstration the VP of Academic Affairs and Student Affairs sent out an email to the campus community that said that we take pride in our identity as a public institution and the pride comes in commitment to upholding the principles of open dialogue and freedom of expression even when the expression is uncomfortable. It goes on to say, we acknowledge that it can be challenging to navigate a campus where a platform is made available to share ideas that some may find harmful or distasteful. It may be disheartening to witness such expressions within our community and on sandwich boards around the space. We know free speech doesn't always mean free from harm. The connotation from these emails and the sandwich boards basically implies that the planned demonstration is distasteful, is negative, is harmful for our community. While I know that some of the demonstrations may be that some expressions of free speech may be bad, I think to throw a blanket statement on all demonstration of free speech may be counterproductive. Especially for such events, we're basically telling the students, sorry, standing up for your concerns about society right now is distasteful. I would request, for administration to consider some kind of remediation, an email that was sent out and changing such communication in the future as well as the message that is given on the sandwich boards. L. Jarnagin stated thank you senator for your comments and the part that is obvious that went into reflecting on that language. I appreciate you bringing a different perspective. I will be very honest that it did not occur to me. I'll take responsibility because those communications, including the sandwich boards, that are developed by my area, by my team. Intent and impact are often two different things. There are some members of our community, regardless of what the content is, the impact will be negative to them. We have to acknowledge that in the academy, there's a variety of perspectives and we cannot assume that all students feel the same way about all issues, just like we can for faculty, staff, visitors, etc. Our intent was to be inclusive by including that language, acknowledging that some may actually feel harmed by what's happening in the space. But the impact, drawing a conclusion based on what the activity is from the perspective you've offered is one that I'd like to muse on. I think you raised an important issue. Let me also say that our practice has been

Academic Senate
Eastern Washington University
Minutes of January 26, 2026

myself and the former provost, we would co-sign and send out the email about the importance of higher education being a marketplace of ideas. At the beginning of the fall and at the beginning of the of this spring, those tended to be the quarters where we would notice the most activity but with the turnover in the provost's role, we missed that activity that we normally do. Once we recognized that we've never sent out that message this fall, we went ahead and sent it the day before the activity. So that was an unintended time correlation between the time of the email and the activity. I take your comments to heart, and I'd like to do some reflection on that and consider if we should change language moving forward.

9. Council Elections/Selections/Confirmations. *Faculty Values Committee* – S. Davis, Psychology. **Hearing no objections, the nomination is approved.**

10. Information Item. a. PRD Slide Show. G. Hustrulid gave a presentation on the proposed policy changes.

b. Title II Requirement Presentation. C. Portillo gave a presentation about Title II requirements and what will be required of all faculty: <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1ku3Q8cZp9JXQC7OyXxxL6lTqRW2p8-9N/view?usp=sharing>

11. Unfinished Business. a. O. Ozturgut, Education to FVC. Due to lack of time, this will be brought forward at the next meeting.

12. New Business. *None.*

13. Good of the Order. a. L. Smith reported would prefer when you email, please use the lsmith152@ewu.edu as opposed to provost.

14. Meeting adjourned at 4:57 p.m. The next regular meeting is scheduled on February 9, 2026.