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Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes
Eastern Oregon University
Inlow 201
May 6, 2025

Meeting video recording
Meeting audio transcript

Present: Aaron Thornburg, Jill Gibian, Karyn Gomez, Kate Puckett, Katie Townsend, Kevin Walker, Kyle Pfaffenbach, Michael Sell, Olivia Kuljian, Peter Maille, Sam McCumber, Zoe Johnson-Ulrich

Absent: Dave Dallas, Mike Heather, Christopher Walsh,

Visitors: Peter Geissinger, Kimberly Newman*, Rae Ette Newman*, Pres. Kelly Ryan, Angie Adams*, Nathan Lowe, Rory Becker, Mollie Rockafellow, Jordan Withers,
(* online)

Presenter	Agenda Item	Discussion	Action and Outcomes
Kevin Walker	Call to order	Meeting called to order at 3:16PM	
Kevin Walker	Agenda adoption	Agenda adopted unanimously	Agenda adopted unanimously
Kevin Walker	Approval of April Minutes	● Amendment: hispanic heritage Film Festival, not all films are streaming, only if existing on streaming platforms ○ Aaron Thornburg moves to approve as amended ○ Michael Sell seconds ○ Minutes approved unanimously	April minutes approved as amended
	Consent Agenda	● Consent agenda discussion focused on the Healthcare Administration Grad Certificate program in the College of Business. Some senators expressed	

		confusion about the location of a healthcare program in the College of Business. This program is related more to administration than healthcare practices. The certificate doesn't require an undergrad degree and does not grant a master's degree. ● In other consent agenda discussion, it was pointed out that the Agriculture Entrepreneurship minor cannot be taken alongside an Ag major. And, the Accounting Grad Certificate is intended to make up any lack of credits for students interested in sitting the CPA exam. ○ Aaron Thornburn moves to approve consent agenda ○ Karyn Gomez seconds ○ Consent agenda approved unanimously	
Mollie Rockafellow & Jordan Withers	Student Grievance Policy Changes (Discussion)	● Mollie and Jordan from Student Affairs presented most up-to-date refinement of Student Grievance Policy, with help from Kate Puckett, chair of Grievance Committee. The basis for the extensive changes to the policy is to build something that "reflects peer institutions and provides a framework that highlights the rights of students through the grievance process." ● Other concerns from Faculty Senate included grievance submission deadline (45 days after an incident), and the role of "supervisor" and whether that always indicates a dean. Most issues that could develop into formal grievances are resolved by an informal process between faculty and students. There are additional concerns about language specific to the rights of faculty to issue grades, which may be modified in advance of an FS vote on the policy changes at June meeting. ● Possible amendment posited by Jill Gibian to line 1.c.i: "Grievances submitted after the 45-day deadline may be considered at the discretion of the administrator overseeing the decision."	
Peter Maille & Pres. Kelly Ryan	Vote to endorse amicus brief	● Many senators agreed with President Ryan's decision to sign with other college presidents to oppose federal legislative actions. Consensus was	FS votes unanimously to endorse

		that the brief is a good public statement for senate to endorse and "our president has taken action on this as a sign of unity." ○ Aaron Thornburg moves to endorse ○ Margot Geagon seconds ○ Motion approved unanimously	President Ryan's signing of amicus brief
	IFS Update	*Moved to June meeting*	
Rory Becker	Grant/funding tools/opportunities	● Rory Becker presented about grant opportunities. EOU's Pivot RP trial begins Monday, May 12 and runs for one month. Faculty are encouraged to use the resource to search for grant funds and let Rory know whether the search tool is useful enough for EOU to continue a subscription. Trial lasts one month. ● Title III funding opportunities include Experiential Learning course development grants (available as $500 or $1000 grants depending on credit load for course). Deadline for this grant is end of Week 10, spring term. Reporting and presenting at colloquium or convocation is requirement of funding. ● Additional Title III funding through an Experiential Learning Activity seed fund. This can fund up front non-capital equipment (less than $5000) and can also be tied to searching for external funds. Reporting and follow-up is requirement of funding.	
Pres. Kelly Ryan	President's report	● 2029 Ascent Strategies to be presented in detail at June FS meeting. ● Key highlights of student success strategies: ○ Mountaineer Information Center (MIC) growing in visitor numbers each term (100 for fall, 398 in January), trying to build out center as a place for asking questions. ○ 3 to 4 individuals assigned to each student's "Mountaineer Success Team." Goal to meet all incoming on-campus freshmen. Next year goal: meet all new students. ○ New Early Alert system is figuring out best ways to communicate with students. Alerts triaged by student guides, with committee	

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		looking to improve responses. 295 alerts in winter term and spring - "The more the better." ○ Admissions - piloting early admissions agreements with La Grande, Griswold, and Umatilla. Piloting 2 more next year and assessing efficacy. ○ Admissions - reduce time between admission and registration. Faculty worked to create 2 year schedules, which helps incoming students plan. Transfer advisor council looking at time gap between acceptance and registration. EAB gave us cohort analysis during their visit and we need to "support students on their journey."	
Peter Geissinger	Provost's Report	● Apply to present at opening session in the fall. Theme for mini-conference presentations is "the changing world and student engagement." Deadline is end of May. ● CTLA has suggested changing new faculty orientation to have one day before term contract starts. Continue sessions with new faculty throughout the year.	
	Good of the Order	● 4th annual EOU Bowling Tournament May 20th. Inlow was poorly represented last year. ● Art Department opening Juried exhibition May 16 from 5-7 PM. Visiting juror Ryan Kitson (Baker City) giving public talk this Thursday in Huber at 6PM ● Kevin Walker officially married as of 11:30AM this morning.	
	Adjournment	Meeting adjourned at 5:02PM	

Minutes submitted by Michael Sell, 5-27-2025.