



Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes
Eastern Oregon University
Ackerman 212
March 4, 2025

[Meeting video recording](#)
[Meeting audio transcript](#)

Present: Olivia Kuljian, Kate Puckett, Peter Maille, Mike Heather, Elaina Robison, Dave Dallas, Kevin Walker, Aaron Thornburg, Sam McCumber, Katie Townsend, Karyn Gomez, Jill Gibian, Kyle Pfaffenbach, Zoe Johnson-Ulrich*, Christopher Walsh*, Elaina Robison,

Absent: Margot Geagon

Visitors: Peter Geissinger, Mohamed Abualhaija, Kimberly Newman*, Angie Adams*, Candice Watkins*, Nate Lowe
(* online)

Presenter	Agenda Item	Discussion	Action and Outcomes
Kevin Walker	Call to Order	Meeting called to order 3:16PM	
Kevin Walker	Agenda Adoption	• Aaron Thornburg moves to approve agenda • Dave Dallas seconds • Agenda adopted unanimously	Agenda adopted
Kevin Walker	Approval of Feb minutes	• Aaron Thornburg moves to approve Feb minutes • Karyn Gomez seconds • Minutes approved unanimously	Feb minutes approved unanimously
Kevin Walker	EPCC Feb Approvals	Discussion centered on explanation of implementing permanent course numbers w/in the MS CTE (Career and Technical Education) 400/500 level courses. Cross-listed courses have been taught for multiple years, and courses need permanent numbers.	Consent agenda approved as presented



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		• Karyn Gomez moves to approve consent agenda • Aaron Thornburg seconds • Consent agenda approved as presented	
	Add/Drop/Withdrawal policy 1.10.45	Discussion focused on student success and their ability to be more decisive about withdrawing from a single class in which they may be struggling rather than all classes at once. Provost Geissinger stressed that extending the allowance for withdrawal into week 10 will help retention and student success. Prof. Aaron Thornburg presented research regarding other institutions and their current policies. Additionally, it was pointed out that EOU previously had a week 10 w/drawal policy, but left to faculty whether to award allow a W or award an F. • Week 7 allowance - PSU, UO, WOU, OSU • Week 10 allowance - SOU, OIT • Additional info: WOU allows w/drawals after wk 7 for medical reasons. OSU caps the max # of w/drawals a student can accumulate. OSHU allows for WP and WF grades for w/drawals Additional discussion revolved around best practices for student success, and rules structured to prevent abuse (a minority of students) rather than help the majority. FS has the power to amend policy document. Prior discussion anecdotally noted that many are in favor of this change (to week 10 from week 7). Action on this item was tabled to April: • Olivia Kuljian moved to table discussion so colleges can discuss further and possibly vote • Aaron Thornburg seconded • Motion passed unanimously, added to April FS agenda	Discussion/action tabled to April meeting
Sam McCumber, Mohamed Abualhaija	Academic Standards shifting	There is a national movement and strong support within Academic Standards to move away from using "academic probation." Discussion included points about other schools (who use a progressive system of warning -> probation ->	



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	“academic probation” language	suspension, and whether EOU should use “warning” or “notice.” The point is to find something that motivates students rather than discouraging them. If the new term is too vague or casual, it runs the risk of losing its seriousness. Discussion concluded with senators being encouraged to bring this item to their colleges in preparation for a Senate vote in April.	
Michael Sell	Gen Ed ad hoc committee update	Committee has been meeting weekly and discussions have addressed whether or not EOU has a Gen Ed problem, major issues affecting transfer students, and possible final-year seminar course, which “regroups” students into cohorts similar to their First Year Experience (HUM course). Surveys are being developed to take temperature of campus, and emphasis has been on ensuring public involvement. Additionally, there may be pressure from HECC to dictate Gen Ed structure moving forward.	
Jill Gibian	Faculty awards recognition	Continuing February’s discussion, Jill Gibian inquired about the process for celebrating end-of-year faculty awardees in a more efficient and noteworthy manner. Provost addressed the issues, assuring faculty that the problem with the process last year has been fixed, and Angie Adams has met with HR about it. President Ryan wants to honor the faculty awardee with a reception at the end of the Board of Trustee’s meeting in May.	
Provost Peter Geissinger	Provost’s Report	• President Ryan in DC lobbying for us following a week lobbying in Salem. EOU reps have met with reps in Salem, pushing for continued Strong Start program funding. • FAQs have been released by the Department of Education. They are backing off the influencing of curriculum, but still indicate you cannot have restrictions on assignments related to one racial group, nor can you teach or assign blame to one racial group. Nothing is wrong with a DEI statement on your syllabus. There are murky conflicts between OR and Fed law. • Steering group working to develop Academic Master Plan, striving for inclusion and that everything gets heard. Baseline survey from campus results coming soon. • NWCCU year 6 report met with positive review. Student effectiveness report upcoming. Karen Clay may reach out with requests. Presenting student	



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		effectiveness at May BOT meeting, with an August deadline. October visits are already scheduled. • There will be a 2-day EAB workshop this Thursday and Friday (March 6-7, 2025). We have a strategic service agreement with them. Day 1: selecting student metrics and looking at data. Day 2: Data governance, addressing our policies and processes. • Misc: Candidate for Foundation director interviewing May 7 on campus, with a presentation at 11AM. When asked about movement on the Deficiency in Foreign Language requirement question, provost said that no change for next year was anticipated.	
	Public Comment/Good of the Order	• Annual foreign language activity day is now World Culture and Languages Day. 100+ high school students enrolled in dual-credit programs will be on campus. • Field House hosts the Stress Less event this Wednesday (March 5, 2025) 11-3 • EOU Film Club meeting in McKenzie tonight (March 4, 2025) starting at 5PM, double feature • Grande Ronde Symphony Orchestra winter concert next Wednesday (March 12, 2025) 7PM • College of Ed hosting career seminar job fair • College of Ed hosting career seminar job fair Friday (March 7, 2025) w/ admin from regional schools • College of Ed sponsoring workshops this weekend (March 7-8, 2025): Anita Archer and holocaust workshop • CIO search candidate coming to campus Monday, March 10. Top candidates dropped, so might go back into pool. Public session was not well-attended. • <i>Fiddler on the Roof</i> auditions this Friday (March 7, 2025) 6:30PM. Sign-up sheet in green room. • AAP (faculty union) meeting tonight (March 4, 2025), 5PM	
Kevin Walker	Adjournment	Meeting adjourned at 4:58PM	



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Minutes submitted by Michael Sell, March 26, 2025.