

## **Faculty DRAFT Senate Minutes**

February 25, 2025

Time

3:15 – 5:15 p.m.

Business 3:30 – 5 p.m.

This meeting on Zoom

<https://zoom.us/j/8766137254?pwd=ZS83UlpaVkJRMVM5K0VncENRb1M0Zz09>

*Primarily paperless, [wou.edu/facultysenate](http://wou.edu/facultysenate)*

### **3:15 - 3:30 p.m.**

*Better Know a Colleague (informal gathering, optional)*

### **3:30 - 5:00 p.m.**

*Business Meeting*

#### **1. Call to order**

**2. Call of the roll** (Senators to sign attendance sheet or enter your name & Division into the Zoom Chat)

- 18 senators on Zoom

#### **3. Corrections to and approval of minutes from previous meeting**

**3.1.** February 11, 2025 [Draft Minutes](#)

- *Minutes were approved as submitted.*

#### **4. Institutional Reports**

**4.1.** Faculty Senate President's [Report](#) (Steve Scheck)

Faculty Senate President proposed the inclusion of a standing agenda item (4.5) for student government reports to strengthen student representation in Faculty Senate discussions.

Informal conversations with ASRA President Brenda Martinez and Student Senate President Maggie Bartoski highlighted the importance of ensuring student voices are heard in university governance.

While a regular report may not be feasible, student government leaders will have an open invitation to provide updates as needed, similar to IFS Senator reports.

Faculty Senate reached a consensus to implement this opportunity moving forward.

**4.2. University President's Report** (Jesse Peters)  
(see Feb 25-26, 2025 [Board of Trustees docket](#))

**4.3. University Provost's Report** (Jose Coll)  
(see Feb 25-26, 2025 [Board of Trustees docket](#))

- Provost Coll encouraged participation in Board of Trustees Meetings and highlighted that the board benefits from hearing a diversity of perspectives beyond the president, provost, and cabinet.
- Faculty were encouraged to share their insights and concerns to help inform decision-making and institutional direction.
- Reestablishing the Academic Affairs Sustainability Committee: A discussion took place regarding the revival of a previously established committee focused on long-term academic sustainability.
- Rather than creating a new initiative, the goal is to build on past efforts, refining and strengthening the committee's charge based on prior experiences.
- This committee is envisioned as an ongoing advisory body within Faculty Senate, not just a short-term solution.
- Collaboration between Faculty Senate, administration, and faculty will be key to ensuring its effectiveness.
- Faculty Allocation Data and Decision-Making Timeline: The Provost's office has shared faculty allocation data with division chairs and deans.
- Faculty members are encouraged to review the data and provide input to refine assumptions and improve decision-making.
- By April 14, deans and division chairs are expected to submit recommendations to help inform the distribution of instructional faculty resources.

**4.4. IFS Senators' Report** (Tad Shannon, Ricardo Pelegrín Taboada)

## **5. Consideration of Old Business – discussion items**

**5.1. Updates on roll-out of submission/review process for modifications to current academic catalog** (program actions limited to WOU campus review)

- Over 100 course proposals have passed through Faculty Senate and are moving through the review process toward the catalog.
- Faculty are encouraged to share any observations about inefficiencies, inconsistencies, or improvements in the curriculum process. These comments can be sent via email to be logged for future adjustments once the current influx of course proposals is processed.

- The Curriculum Committee will hold two more meetings—one next week and another during final exams—to ensure that all possible proposals are collected for the next catalog.
- Faculty who have pending proposals are encouraged to submit them as soon as possible. Support is available from the Registrar’s Office to assist with the process.

## 5.2. TBA

## 6. Consideration of New Business

### 6.1. Follow-up discussion on Provost Coll’s recent Instructional Faculty Directive

### 6.2. Discussion about configuration, scope of work, types of data necessary for a reactivated Faculty Senate Academic Sustainability Committee to serve in an advisory capacity to the Provost.

- Faculty Senate reviewed the previous charter of the Academic Sustainability Committee to assess its structure and function.
- The committee’s meeting frequency will need to increase beyond once per month to effectively address concerns during late winter and early spring terms.
- Reactions to the committee’s past performance have been mixed, with some faculty recalling effective work while others noted internal conflicts.
- Discussion centered on the benchmarks and criteria the committee should use when reviewing programs and proposals, as well as the data and university staff support needed for informed decision-making.
- Committee size was also considered, with the need to find an optimal balance—neither too large nor too small—to ensure functionality.
- The Faculty Senate President expressed intent to serve on the committee, seeing it as a key responsibility to faculty.
- Seven faculty members have volunteered so far, and a call for additional volunteers was made. The Executive Committee will review candidates.
- Faculty were invited to suggest any missing perspectives or constituencies that should be represented on the committee.

### 6.3. Most recent “[charter](#)” of previous Academic Sustainability Committee

- Senator Tad Shannon provided historical context for the original Academic Sustainability Committee, which emerged from a faculty task force focused on defending programs from Article 15 cuts at a time when financial data and models were lacking.
- Concern was raised that the original charter’s language was shaped by an adversarial mindset, which made it difficult to engage in practical discussions about how programs are financially accounted for.

- A key issue in past iterations was that financial modeling and program accounting were not explicitly included in the committee's charge, leading discussions to focus more on qualitative justifications rather than structured financial assessments.
- It was emphasized that proper financial accounting is a necessary foundation before engaging in broader discussions about program sustainability and value.
- To achieve this, the committee must have access to appropriate staff support, potentially from Academic Affairs or the Business Office, to assist in developing financial models that provide transparency and facilitate informed decision-making.
- Provost Coll claimed the working group will have access to all necessary data to ensure informed, data-driven decision-making.
- The VPFA office, despite being in transition, is aware of the committee's objectives, and the incoming VPFA has been briefed on its role.
- While the Provost's Office and VPFA staff are small, they will be available to provide financial and operational data as needed.
- The committee will ensure that all relevant data is available to support decision-making.
- Budget office staff will not be permanent members of the committee, but they will be consulted as needed to provide financial insights.

6.4. Provost's 2-10-2025 memo on Academic Affairs budget pause [update](#).

## **7. Informational Presentations, Committee Reports, Announcements**

7.1. Western Oregon University Board of Trustees is meeting today and tomorrow.  
[BOT docket](#)

## **8. Open Discussion-Call for Future Business**

8.1. Call for future business items

8.1. Closing discussion items from the floor

**5 – 5:15 p.m.**

*Better Know a Colleague (informal gathering continued, optional)*