

Faculty Senate Minutes

May 27, 2025

Time

3:15 – 5:15 p.m.

Business 3:30 – 5 p.m.

Alternative Zoom participation access:

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

Primarily paperless, 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)

- 8 senators on person, 11 senators on Zoom

3. Corrections to and approval of minutes from previous meeting

3.1. May 13, 2025 [Draft Minutes](#)

- *Minutes were approved as submitted.*

4. Institutional Reports

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

4.2. University President's [Vision for the Future](#) Report (Jesse Peters)

4.3. University Provost's [Report](#) to BOT Academic, Student and Athletic Affairs Committee (José Coll)

4.4. ASWOU/Student Senate Report (TBA)

4.5. IFS Senators' Report (Tad Shannon, Ricardo Pelegrín Taboada)
IFS Legislative [support letter](#)

Also see new business.

5. Consideration of Old Business – discussion items

5.1 Faculty Senate Nominating Committee presents the following slate of candidates for executive positions:

- Vice President: Patricia Giménez-Eguíbar
- At-Large Members: Melissa Cannon and Xiaoping Gong elected from three candidates.

Voting was conducted both in-person and via Google Form for Zoom participants

6. Consideration of New Business

IFS Resolutions: Two resolutions unanimously approved by IFS and endorsed by WOU Faculty Senate after motion to suspend bylaws.

6.1. (2024.002) IFS May 16, 2025 [Resolution](#) on importance of Oregon public university missions; inspired by Big Ten initiatives.

Votes: 16 in favor, 1 opposed, 1 abstention.

6.2. (2024.003) IFS May 16, 2025 [Resolution](#) on sanctuary and public universities in Oregon. Supporting Oregon's sanctuary laws, noting varying levels of public support among university leadership statewide. Votes:

Votes: 17 in favor, 0 opposed, 1 abstention.

7. Informational Presentations, Committee Reports, Announcements

7.1. Academic Sustainability Committee (on-going update)

- The committee is developing a framework for program review centered on sustainability, relevance, and university resource alignment.
- Focus areas include program impact beyond major enrollment, community service, fill rates, and curriculum overlap.
- Drafting of a purpose statement for program reviews underway

7.2. Informational [update](#) on program revisions occurring in the Education & Leadership Division (Alicia Wenzel, Greg “GZ” Zobel)

- Comprehensive revision of programs, no new programs proposed.
- Shift from 3-credit to 4-credit courses to align with LAS structure, improve equity, simplify scheduling, and reduce course load for students and faculty.

- Transition plans being created to support students on current catalog paths.
- Rollout begins Fall 2025, fully submitted by December 2025.
- Project is designed to support student graduation timelines, integrate OER, and improve overall program sustainability and competitiveness.

7.3. Check-in on curricular portal process. Concerns raised about the effectiveness and faculty-friendliness of the new curricular pipeline. Main issues:

- Single-threaded pipeline limits simultaneous committee review (e.g., Gen Ed & Curriculum).
- Notification inconsistencies and delays in proposal routing.
- Deans' review timing misaligned with proposal development stages.

Proposal to stagger committee meetings (e.g., Gen Ed after Curriculum Committee) to improve flow.

Need for pre-approval vetting by Registrar emphasized.

7.4. Continued discussion about Faculty Senate governance structure –division suggestions. Nominating Committee May 13, 2025 [report](#)

Open discussion on restructuring Faculty Senate to reflect current service capacity. Issues:

- Service overload, unequal representation, unfilled seats.
- Possibility of reducing Senate size or adjusting representation models.
- Reexamining bylaws for timing of elections and faculty workload alignment.

Upcoming survey planned for Fall to gather broader faculty input.

8. Open Discussion-Call for Future Business

8.1. Call for future business items

5 – 5:15 p.m.

Better Know a Colleague (informal gathering continued, optional)