

Faculty DRAFT Senate Minutes

January 14, 2025

Time

3:15 – 5:15 p.m.

Business 3:30 – 5 p.m.

This meeting will be held in the Columbia Room of the Werner University Center

Also observable on Zoom.

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)

- 10 Senators on Zoom, 9 Senators in person

3. Corrections to and approval of minutes from previous meeting

3.1. December 10, 2024 [Minutes](#)

- *Minutes were approved as submitted.*

4. Institutional Reports

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

- Petition to gather information from the division about new scheduling blocks.

4.2. University President's Report (Jesse Peters)

4.3. Provost's Report

- Appreciation for Collaborative Discussions: The Provost expressed gratitude for the robust and constructive conversations regarding course delivery methods between administrators and faculty through the Faculty Senate.
- Pastega Awards: A new category has been introduced for the Pastega Awards, specifically aimed at recognizing excellence in teaching among non-tenure track faculty. This category has been funded by the Provost's Office and the

Foundation, highlighting the institution's commitment to acknowledging outstanding contributions across all faculty roles.

- New Director for Admissions: Joy Brown has been announced as the new Director of Admissions. This appointment signals a renewed focus on enhancing the admissions process and building strong relationships with prospective students.
- Academic Affairs Council/Budgetary Advisory Committee: The Provost discussed the establishment of an Advising Council/Budgetary Committee. This group will focus on developing a transparent mechanism for investing institutional resources, including state allocations. The goal is to support informed decision-making and ensure resource allocation aligns with institutional priorities and strategic goals. The work of the committee which will be faculty and staff will focus solely on academic affairs unlike UBAC which is an advisory to the President and focuses on institutional funding priorities.

4.4. IFS Senators' Report (Tad Shannon)

5. Consideration of Old Business – discussion items

5.1. Update and continuing discussion about [Bachelors of Applied Science](#)

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

6. Consideration of New Business

6.1. Faculty Senate extended discussion of President Peter's January 5, 2025 campus-wide [email](#) communication.

Senators discussed the critical need for access to and understanding of program budgets, emphasizing how this information is essential for transparency and informed decision-making. They highlighted the importance of ensuring that faculty, staff, and administrators are aware of the financial structures that support their programs and how these budgets impact operations, student success, and institutional priorities.

Additionally, senators explored the possibility of exerting more pressure on the State Legislature to advocate for increased funding for higher education. The discussion acknowledged that state funding for higher education appears to be declining year after year, posing significant challenges for institutions to maintain quality, affordability, and accessibility.

It was noted that the Provost Council also engages in lobbying efforts as part of a consistent and ongoing attempt to increase the state budget allocation for higher education. These efforts reflect a collaborative commitment across institutions to address the funding gap and advocate for better support at the state level.

However, senators acknowledged the complexity of the political and economic landscape, recognizing that despite their collective advocacy, securing more state funding for higher education remains a difficult and persistent challenge.

Looking for a colleague willing to serve on the Inter Institutional Faculty Senate. WOU has two seats on this body; The term on the IFS is three years, running from Jan 2025 through December 2028. IFS devotes much attention to the economical-political landscape of Oregon's public universities.

7. Informational Presentations, Committee Reports, Announcements

7.1. General education committee [approved](#) three community college transfer degrees as meeting WOU's general education core requirements.

8. Open Discussion-Call for Future Business

Senator Emily Vala-Haynes inquired about what, in light of the incoming Trump administration, WOU is formally doing to support undocumented students enrolled at WOU.

5 – 5:15 p.m.

Better Know a Colleague (informal gathering continued, optional)