

Faculty DRAFT Senate Minutes

May 13, 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)

- 6 on person, 8 senators on Zoom

3. Corrections to and approval of minutes from previous meeting

3.1. April 22, 2025 [Draft Minutes](#)

- *Minutes were approved as submitted.*

4. Institutional Reports

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

1. Senate Seat Assignments

- The executive committee used HR data to determine faculty FTE (Full-Time Equivalent) and make senate seat assignments.
- Two methods of FTE calculation were used (annual average and term-by-term analysis), yielding the same results.
- Some divisions gained seats due to a change in how faculty are counted -now including all faculty equally, regardless of tenure-track status.
- This shift stems from a prior Senate decision to move away from unequal counting of faculty types.

- Behavioral Sciences and Business/Economics divisions each gained a seat.
- Senate encouraged divisions to select senators based on the new seat allocations in upcoming division meetings.

2. Bylaw Suspension and Elections

- A motion was passed (by 2/3+ majority) to suspend Senate bylaws to expedite elections for certain positions.
- Mike Baltzley was confirmed as Faculty Senate President for 2025–2026.
- Tim Cowart was confirmed as Secretary.
- Vice President and at-large executive committee positions have multiple candidates and will be decided by secret ballot in two weeks:
 - Vice President candidates: Patricia Giménez-Eguíbar and Camila Gabaldón
 - At-large candidates: Melissa Cannon, Xiaopeng Gong, and Michael Freeman

4.2. University President's Report (Jesse Peters)

Lobby Day & Legislative Advocacy

- WOU Lobby Day is scheduled for Thursday.
- President Peters and others have been engaging legislators to advocate for regional universities.
- Emphasis on: Who attends regional universities / The economic realities of regional vs. larger institutions/ Preserving higher education funding in the face of federal/economic uncertainty

Achievements and Institutional Events

- WOU achieved Hispanic-Serving Institution (HSI) designation, publicly announced at the HSI Summit.
- Cesar Chavez Leadership Conference brought over 1,000 high school students to campus.
- Student Success Center Grand Opening held, with strong community support.
- Upcoming key events: Employee Celebration, June 6, Academic Excellence Showcase, Athletic Auction, Board of Trustees Meeting – week before graduation

4.3. University Provost's Report (José Coll)

- Academic Excellence Day is on May 29; faculty presence encouraged.
- Plans to expand faculty/staff recognition beyond the Pestega Awards at the college level.
- Dean Search for College of Education has concluded; announcement pending.
- Melanie Landon-Hays is the new Director of General Education.

- Jensen Lecture Series scheduled for May 22; future speaker recommendations to be solicited.

4.4. ASWOU/Student Senate [Report](#) (Student Senator Anfisa Boianoff reported for Student Senate)

- Hosted mental health awareness event and tabling for resources.
- Started a student newsletter to improve communication and transparency.
- Participated in state and regional lobby days (May 7 and May 15).
- Working on a student resource book, with hopes to release it by term end.
- Ongoing student elections and a turf referendum proposing a \$10 fee increase per student.
- Passed resolutions clarifying advisor roles, office requirements, and public meeting rules.

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

- Next meeting scheduled; no formal agenda received yet.
- Will discuss:
 - Legislative bills under review
 - Sanctuary campus statements in Oregon

5. Consideration of Old Business – discussion items

No old business

6. Consideration of New Business

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

President

Mike Baltzley

Vice President

Camila Gabaldón

Patricia Giménez-Eguíbar

Secretary

Tim Cowart

At-large-member (two seats open)

Melissa Cannon
Xiaopeng Gong
Michael R. Freeman

- Discussion of suspending bylaws to vote immediately on President and Secretary roles.
- Secret ballot planned in two weeks for VP and at-large roles.

6.2 As per Faculty Senate Bylaws the Executive Committee enlisted Human Resources to conduct a 24-25 census of faculty members in the Senate's recognized academic divisions and has set the allocation for senate seats as follows:

DIVISION	25-26 AY	24-25 AY
Behavioral Sciences + OT	3	2
Business & Economics	2	1
Computer Science	1	1
Creative Arts	3	3
Criminal Justice Sciences	2	1
Deaf Studies & Professional Studies	2	1
Education & Leadership	4	4
Health & Exercise Science	2	2
Humanities	3	3
Library	1	1

Natural Sciences & Mathematics	3	3
Social Science	2	2

7. Informational Presentations, Committee Reports, Announcements

7.1. Academic Sustainability Committee update

Academic Sustainability Committee

- Meeting weekly; breaking work into weekly “bite-sized” deliverables.
- Current focus: assembling data sets for future program reviews (e.g., fill rates, credit hours, gen ed breakdowns).
- Committee is not evaluating departments, only defining the framework and metrics for future reviews.
- Updates to be a standing agenda item in future Senate meetings.

7.2. [Update](#) on admissions/retention (Paige Jackson, Assistant Provost, Enrollment Management & Student Success and Joy Brown, Director of Undergraduate Admissions)

Context & Challenges:

- Oregon high school graduate numbers are declining and projected to drop 19% by 2041.
- Oregon exports many of its graduates to out-of-state schools.
- Highly competitive recruitment environment.

Strategic Changes & Progress:

- Common App implementation increased applications by 266%.
- Increased application completion, admissions offers, and confirmed enrollment.
- First OPU to send financial aid packages early (by March).
- New systems for advising handoffs, conditional admissions, and CRM optimization.
- Strong collaboration with marketing, financial aid, advising, and retention teams.

Early Results:

- 90% of first-year enrollment goal reached by May 1.
- First-year confirmations up; transfer applications up 15%.

- Early advising appointments and registrations have already exceeded last year's benchmarks.

Future Plans:

- More targeted recruitment, especially in Oregon and border states.
- New campus visit experience and tour revamp.
- Earlier application cycle launch (August 1) and increased outreach to juniors and sophomores.
- Ongoing need for faculty support in communication and participation.

7.3. Nomination committee [will launch](#) a general discussion about Faculty Senate governance structure: **Senate Structural Review and Reform**

- Nominating committee (led by Mary Pettinger) initiated discussion on improving Faculty Senate function and participation.
- Issues identified:
 - Difficulty finding willing senators
 - Zoom/hybrid meetings reducing engagement
 - Committee structures potentially outdated
- Plan to collect ideas now and hold a focused discussion at the May 27 meeting.
- Possibility of revisiting:
 - In-person vs. hybrid format
 - Monthly vs. biweekly meetings
 - Committee numbers and structures
- Faculty encouraged to send input to Dr. Elisa Maroney, Chair of this committee. .

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)