



**Western Oregon University Board of Trustees:
Diversity, Equity, Inclusion & Accessibility Committee (DEIAC)
Meeting No. 11– April 4, 2024
1:30pm – 2:30pm**

Minutes

I. CALL-TO-MEETING AND ROLL CALL

Chair Castillo welcomed everyone, she called the meeting to order on Thursday April 4, 2024 at 2:32pm and asked Secretary Sorce to call the roll.

Committee Members Present: Chair Susan Castillo, Trustee Danielle Campbell, Trustee Cecilia Koontz, Trustee Cristian Mendez Garcia, Trustee Page Jackson

Others Present: President Peters, Board Secretary Evan Sorce, Erin Lieuallen, Malia Fernandez, Aneli Godinez-Martinez

II. CONSENT AGENDA

1) Approval of the February 2, 2024 Meeting Minutes

Trustee Koontz moved to approve the February 2, 2024 meeting minutes as presented in the docket, Trustee Mendez Garcia seconded the motion. There was no additional discussion. The motion was approved unanimously.

III. REPORT & DISCUSSION ITEMS:

1) Update on the Status of the Equity Assessment Action Plan

Chair Castillo moved on to receiving an update on the status of the Equity Assessment Action Plan and introduced the Executive Director of the Office of Diversity Equity and Inclusion, Dominique Vargas, to walk through her update. Director Vargas met with all of the Accountability Leaders that are called out in the plan to outline next steps of the plan, they had until yesterday to provide updates on the plan, which will be updated in the full board docket in April.

Trustee Mendez Garcia asked if all the accountability leaders are meeting together so they can get a sense of all the work that is being done. Director Vargas said not yet, but accountability leaders who are working on the same projects are meeting together with Director Vargas.

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2) **Office of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Update | Dominique Vargas**

Executive Director Vargas presented her board update, which can be found on page 5 of the docket.

IV. Conversation about Freedom Center Organizational Status with Co-Directors of Freedom Center Malia Fernandez & Aneli Godinez-Martinez

Director Vargas introduced the two Co-Directors of the Freedom Center, Malia Fernandez & Aneli-Godinez-Martinez, who walked through their presentation, which can be found on page nine of the docket. Chair Castillo asked what would be included in the Business category in the chart on page 9. Malia answered that the business category includes meetings with other clubs and organizations. Trustee Jackson asked the Co-Directors how they track why students stop by or use the Freedom Centers, but it's not an exact measurement. Trustee Mendez Garcia asked the two co-directors what they planned to do with their collected data. The two Co-Directors mentioned using the data to help shape what the Freedom Center looks like and collaborating with other clubs to help provide additional resources and services to the students of WOU. Director Vargas added context to the background of the Freedom Center and where its funding comes from. After the co-directors had presented, there was a robust conversation about what the Freedom Center would look like in the future and its mission, especially because the center has evolved over the years, as well as there have been additional requests for space from several student clubs as well as a student request for a Dream Center, and a student request for an Interfaith center as well. Chair Castillo wrapped up the conversation by mentioning that she is looking forward to getting updates about the work being done to determine what the Freedom Center will look like in the future.

V. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chair Castillo asked for any announcements from the floor.

- Executive Director Vargas reminded folks to register for the HSI Summit if they are planning to attend the HSI Summit on April 26, 2024 at WOU.
- Monday May 20th is the next meeting for the DEIAC meeting.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

Trustee Castillo adjourns the meeting at 2:40 pm.