



Staff Senate Agenda

March 7, 2023 (10:00am–11:30am)

Online Via Zoom

Start recording

- Meeting recordings only accessible to Senators
- Zoom meeting -
<https://wou-edu.zoom.us/j/86811472055?pwd=YTFmM2NoL1hGUkIBOG15UGhtMUxTUT09>

Approval of minutes

- Draft in Staff Senate Team Drive for February 21, 2023

Guest Speaker

- President Peters

Reports

- Committee Reports
 - Shared Governance
 - Cabinet
 - University Council - No meeting
 - Other - Administrative Equity, Staff Connections, Scholarship, etc.

Unfinished Business

- Committee Needs
 - UBAC - 2 Classified Staff
 - WUC Advisory Committee
 - Scholarship Review
- Senate Vacancies
 - Unclassified
- HRO 917 usage - Presentation from HR on March 7
- Reminder of upcoming elections
 - Executive
 - “General” Senate seats



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- Performance Evaluations & Training
 - On hold
- Use of Direct Appointments
 - On hold
- Search Committee processes
 - On hold
- Fundraiser Raffle
 - On Hold

New Business

- Moving forward with HR related “On Hold” items

Announcements

- Agenda item suggestions
- Kudos/Recognition
- Public Comments - Anything for the good of the order?

Adjourn

Upcoming

- Mar 21, 2023

February 28, 2023

President's Senate Report:

- 1) Budget Update: My direct reports submitted their maps to achieve the \$5 million in permanent budget cuts on February 17th. I have been meeting with them individually, and we also met as a group, to discuss the proposals and the ramifications of suggested budget reductions. There is now a tentative plan, and I will inform the campus community this week and hold a town hall to address any questions. I will also discuss the proposed plan with the BOT chair and BOT Finance Committee chair.

We are trying to move quickly, but I also want to make sure that we make the best decisions within this very difficult context.

- 2) Secretary to the BOT: Candidates are being interviewed via Zoom this week, and finalists will be invited to campus soon, most likely next week.
- 3) Enrollment & Retention: Once we have the budget reduction map for the next fiscal year finalized, I ask that the campus community turn more attention to student recruitment, enrollment, and retention. As I have said before, enrollment is everyone's job, and we must all consider how we contribute to efforts that place students at the center and help them to be successful. The Enrollment Management working groups are moving us in positive directions, and EAB is helping with outreach to prospective students, but there are many connected activities that can help achieve our goals.

For example:

How can we engage with Admissions during visitation days and campus events?
How can we help MarCom with social media presence?
How can we help MarCom with press releases that showcase WOU?
How can we promote campus life & events?
How can we create a more vibrant and engaged campus experience?
How can we improve the physical spaces inside buildings?
How can we better support student success?
How can we better advocate for our university?

I know people do this type of work for WOU every day, and that is greatly appreciated. But I also know every small improvement is another step towards making us stronger; every new moment that engages students is a moment that helps make them successful.

And every time we tell our story, it provides another opportunity for someone to discover and choose Western Oregon University.

- 4) Government Relations: Our lobbying efforts continue. The goal is to increase the PUSF (Public University Support Fund) to \$1.05 billion for four-year public universities. We feel this is needed to sustain service levels at our institutions. The Governor's budget included \$15 million to help the TRUs plan for future stability and sustainability. If we receive some funds like this, it can offset the costs of standing up new programs, improving DEI initiatives, transitioning to better systems, etc. These are not permanent dollars, so they would need to be used on one-time expenses, not for recurring expenses. Even so, they would be incredibly helpful as we make overall improvements that will help with enrollment and retention. However, we will not know for sure whether we receive any funds until the final legislative budget is realized.

Jesse