



Western Oregon University Board of Trustees:
Academic & Student Affairs Committee
Meeting No. 34– March 21, 2024
8:30am-10:30am
Minutes

I. CALL-TO-MEETING AND ROLL CALL

Chair Mitchell calls the meeting of the Academic & Student Affairs Committee to order at 1pm on Tuesday October 17, 2023 . Chair Mitchell asked Secretary Sorce to call the roll.

Committee members present:, Board Chair Betty Komp, Trustee Cristian Mendez-Garcia, Chair Leah Mitchell, Trustee Kari Nelsestuen. Quorum is Present.

Committee members non in attendance: Trustee David Foster and Trustee Mendez Garcia

Others Present: President Peters, Secretary Evan Sorce

II. COMMITTEE CHAIR'S WELCOME

Chair Mitchell welcomes everyone to the meeting and thanks them all for being there.

III. CONSENT AGENDA

[Meeting Minutes: January 16, 2024](#)

Trustee Nelsestuen moved the approval of the January 16, 2024 meeting minutes, and Board Chair Betty Komp seconded the motion. There was no additional discussion. The motion passed unanimously

IV. REPORTS & DISCUSSION ITEMS:

- 1) **Showcase & Discussion:** [Financial Aid Status Update for the 2024-2025 Academic Year – Vice President of Student Affairs Tina Fuchs](#)

Vice President for Student Affairs Tina Fuchs kicked off the Presentation and introduced WOU's Director of Financial Aid, Kella Helyer, to walk through the Presentation. The Presentation can be found on page 5 of the ASAC Docket for review. Trustee Mendez-Garcia would like to see data from the events that WOU's financial aid team participated in to see what percentage of the students that they helped at those events had challenges filling out the FAFSA and specifically how many had issues with parents not having a SSN to fill out the FAFSA. Trustee Nelsestuen asked what the role of high schools and high school counselors is in helping students through this process. Director Helyer said that her team works with high schools to host financial aid nights where WOU's team is present, helping support students, families, and high school staff in this process. Chair Mitchell asked how all of this process has impacted the financial aid staff. Director Helyer said the

impact has been a lot on her team, and it has been a very challenging year. Chair Mitchell wanted to take a moment to thank Director Helyer and her entire team for their work and dedication to WOU and our students.

2) 2023-2024 Academic Year (Workplan) update

Chair Mitchell set the stage for this agenda item by giving a bit of background on the workplace. Provost Coll went first; Academic Affairs has started to develop a strategic plan for the Provost Office, which aligns with the universities of the strategic plan. This will provide the language and measurements for the Deans and Colleges. This will allow the Colleges and units to begin their plan in the Fall of 2024. Academic Grade Regulation is close to completion, with implementation starting in the summer and starting with the 2024-2025 academic catalog. Provost Coll also mentioned with the Student Co-Curricular Strategy that WOU secured state appropriations (\$666,000) to support enrollment growth in the MA Counseling programs. This could be a stipend for students as well as potentially working with other universities in high demand for graduation degrees such as this one so that we can catch students who are applying to other schools as well. VP Fuchs' updates to the Academic Year workplan can be found at the end of her report, which is on page 14 of the docket for review. Through VP Fuchs' update there was a large conversation that broke out around Summer Bridge Programs and Destination Western, the impacts and benefits of these programs and how we are trying to keep these programs going even though the state has backed away from the investments they have previously made to fund it.

3) [Student Affairs Update](#) | *Vice President Tina Fuchs*

VP Fuchs's report can be found in the docket on page 14 for review.

4) [Academic Affairs Update](#) | *Provost Jose Coll*

Provost Coll's report can be found on page 17 for review.

V. ADJOURNMENT

Trustee Mitchell adjourns the meeting at 9:45am