



**Western Oregon University Board of Trustees:
Academic, Student & Athletic Affairs Committee (ASAAC)**

Meeting No. 40

October 28, 2025 | 3:00pm-5:00pm

Via [Zoom Webinar](#) | By Phone: 1-253-215-8782

Meeting ID: 810 9772 5596

AGENDA

I. CALL-TO-MEETING AND ROLL CALL

II. COMMITTEE CHAIR'S WELCOME

III. CONSENT AGENDA (3:00-3:15pm)

1) [Meeting Minutes: May 20, 2025](#)

IV. REPORT & DISCUSSION ITEMS:

1) [The Research Institute \(TRI\) Overview](#) (3:15-3:45pm)

Robyn Lopez Melton, Director for The Research Institute

(3:45-4:45pm)

2) Division Updates

a. Academic Affairs | *Provost Jose Coll*

b. [Student Affairs](#) | *Vice President Tina Fuchs*

c. [Athletics](#) | *Executive Director Randi Lydum*

(4:45pm)

V. ADJOURNMENT



**Western Oregon University Board of Trustees:
Academic & Student Affairs Committee
Meeting No. 40– May 20, 2025
1:00 pm-3:00 pm**

Draft Minutes

I. CALL-TO-MEETING AND ROLL CALL

Chair Mitchell calls the meeting of the Academic & Student Affairs Committee to order at 1:00 pm on Tuesday, May 20, 2025. Chair Mitchell asked Secretary Sorce to call the roll.

Committee Members Present: Chair Leah Mitchell, Vice-Chair Kari Nelsestuen, Trustee Hunter Hall

Committee Members Excused: Trustee Juan Larios

Others Present: President Peters, Secretary Evan Sorce, Malissa Larson, Dr. Jose Coll, Randi Lydum, Joy Brown, Paige Jackson.

II. COMMITTEE CHAIR’S WELCOME

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

Secretary Sorce reminded the committee that this meeting will be recorded and posted because of a new state law requiring the recording and posting of Board Meetings.

III. CONSENT AGENDA

[April 8, 2025 Meeting Minutes](#)

Trustee Nelsestuen moved the approval of the April 8, 2025, meeting minutes, and Trustee Hall seconded the motion. There was no additional discussion.

Roll Call on the mention of the motion described above

Chair Mitchell	Aye
Board Vice Chair Nelsestuen	Aye
Trustee Hall	Aye
Trustee Larios	Excused
Trustee Schowalter	Excused

The motion passes.

IV. REPORTS & DISCUSSION ITEMS:

1) **Showcase & Discussion:** | Enrollment & Retention | Paige Jackson, Assistant Provost of Enrollment Management & Student Success, and Joy Brown, Director of Admissions

Chair Mitchell asked Paige Jackson, Assistant Provost of Enrollment Management and Student Success, and Joy Brown, Director of Admissions, to give their presentation. His presentation can be found on page six for review. Assistant Provost Jackson and Director Brown discussed the state and national landscape when it comes to recruiting undergraduate students, which is challenging to say the least, especially in Oregon. Some of these challenging factors include Flagship schools receiving the vast majority of new students, as well as the declining number of high school graduates in Oregon and nationally. They laid out the current recruiting cycle priorities, including making data-driven decisions, enrolling in marketing plans for sophomores and juniors in high school, and developing a robust communication plan. Additionally, they emphasized the importance of aligning efforts among marketing, student success and retention, and financial aid. Director Brown mentioned the importance of the campus visit experience. For example, in April, they held an admitted students day, and over 200 students and their families attended; 90% of those students have confirmed their spots for the fall. Assistant Provost Jackson mentioned that their recruiting goals are very aggressive, and if they meet them, the projection will be flat enrollment. That is because the graduating class was so large this last year.

Chair Mitchell asked what the undergraduate recruiting goal is for the upcoming year and how it compares to last year. Assistant Provost Jackson said the goal is 1,053, and the entering class for the current year was 948. The goal is an 11percent increase overall. Chair Mitchell asked a follow-up question based on demographics in this state and the United States, and the percentage of future high school graduates. Is the university modeling out a recruitment plan for the future? Assistant Provost Jackson responded that, despite these challenges, she believes that WOU is in a better situation than many universities in this state and has untapped potential in Oregon and beyond, particularly with improved brand awareness and targeted investments. The goal, though, should be stabilization, not rapid growth.

Vice-Chair Nelsestuen asked, given that this was presented to the faculty, what was their reaction to the presentation? Didn't get a single question from the Faculty Senate, which was surprising, but maybe they preemptively answered all the questions in their presentation. Trustee Mitchell asked about the faculty's role in recruitment. Provost Coll responded that it is everyone's job to recruit actively, but they need to work directly with admissions to ensure that messaging is consistent. What is effective but challenging is summer recruitment programs with faculty, where they can talk about their specific programs and answer students' program-specific questions. Assistant Provost Jackson mentioned a program they have working with faculty around recruitment, specifically with transfer recruits.

2) Division Updates:
a. Academic Affairs | Provost Jose Coll



Dr. Jose Coll provided his update on Academic Affairs. His report is available as a supplemental document on the website for review. Dr Coll highlighted ongoing work in admissions and enrollment at Western Oregon University, including the initiative to create a clear 4-year degree plan for students, particularly in our top 6 majors, which account for roughly 76% of the degrees awarded from WOU. The goal is that, over the next two years, all of WOU's programs will have a 4-year degree pathway. From there, the university can right-size its program offerings to align them with workforce needs. Provost Coll also mentioned new partnerships with Oregon State University and Lane Community College to enhance recruitment of prospective students, including international students.

b. Student Affairs | Associate Vice President for Student Affairs and Dean of Students, Malissa Larson

Associate Vice President for Student Affairs, Malissa Larson gave the update for Student Affairs on behalf of VP Fuchs. VP Fuchs' report is available on page 21 of the docket for review. Associate Vice President Larson, highlighted the busy end-of-year activities on campus, including commencement preparations and various student engagement events. Associate Vice President Larson noted that dining services have improved their offerings with themed dinners, and the Center for Professional Pathways is focusing on senior transitions. The division is also preparing for multiple graduation celebrations, student, club, and organization celebrations, and staff recognition events. Student Affairs has organized over 320 events throughout the year.

c. Athletics | Executive Director Randi Lydum

Executive Director of Intercollegiate Athletics Lydum gave the athletics update, which can be found on page 25 of the docket for review. The Executive Director shared that they just had their last home athletic event for the academic year, and they have hosted 127 home events this year. Executive Director Lydum gave a focused update on the Athletics Advisory Committee, which is chaired by Dr. Sheck. The committee is composed of a staff member, a faculty member, a board member, and a student. The committee has been examining policies, procedures, and budgetary aspects of the athletics department, with a focus on ensuring efficient use of university funding.

Additionally, the committee has been evaluating whether the division, conference, and number of sports WOU supports align with the university's goals. Two more meetings are scheduled before the committee provides recommendations to Dr. Peters and Executive Director Lydum. Executive Director Lydum also discussed the planned summer athletics activities, including 14 sports camps and all-comers meets in track and field. She emphasized that these events are important for fundraising and community engagement. She also mentioned ongoing recruitment efforts for future athletics and the upcoming Wolves Athletic Auction on May 31st. Lastly, she gave a shout-out to the



Women's rugby team's qualification for nationals and the high usage rate of the Peter Courtney Health and Wellness Center. They were up to 48,856 student visits this year to the center, with a roughly 57% unique student body usage rate, which is up from 56% with a few more weeks left in the school year.

3) Committee Charter Review | Evan Sorce

Chair Mitchell asked Secretary Sorce to walk through the proposed changes to the ASAAC Committee Charter. The biggest change to the charter was the addition of athletics to the committee. There were no additional proposed changes or questions. Vice-Chair Nelsestuen made a motion to approve the updated ASAAC Committee Charter and Trustee Hall seconded the motion. There was no additional discussion.

Roll Call on the mention of the motion described above

Chair Mitchell	Aye
Board Vice Chair Nelsestuen	Aye
Trustee Hall	Aye
Trustee Larios	Excused
Trustee Schowalter	Excused

The motion passes.

4) **ADJOURNMENT**

Trustee Mitchell adjourns the at 02:16pm



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The Research Institute at Western Oregon University

Robyn Lopez Melton, MEd
TRI Director
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TRI Today

- **54** unclassified WOU staff working across Oregon
- Additional **2** WOU positions (UCS, HR) partially funded through TRI funds
- **87** hourly staff working as educators in schools and communities
- **2** Student Staff starting in November
- **3** Centers focused on furthering WOU's core value of Valuing Community



The Research Institute at Western Oregon University

- Teaching Research established in 1963
- Early groundbreaking research in special education and inclusion of children with special needs in educational settings
- Nationally recognized curriculum development research



The TRI Team

- **91%** identify gender as female
- **57%** speak at least two languages fluently
- **26%** First Generation Immigrants

*Data from 2024 self-reported demographic survey of TRI staff



58% White
33% Hispanic/Latino/a/e
<5% Asian
<5% Native Hawaiian
<5% Black/African American



TRI Funding Structure

TRI is not supported by university general funds

TRI is fully funded by grants and contracts

TRI's funding provides indirect funds that support the university.



Current TRI Funding

Grants and Contract Totals

\$18.6 million

Direct Expenditures

\$15.9 million

Indirect Revenue for WOU

\$2.7 million



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The Research Institute at Western Oregon University

Center on Research, Evaluation, and Analysis

Center on Workforce and System Development

Center on Educator Supports and Innovation



TRI Funders

Oregon Department of Early Learning and Care

- State and Federal funding

Oregon Department of Transportation

Multnomah County

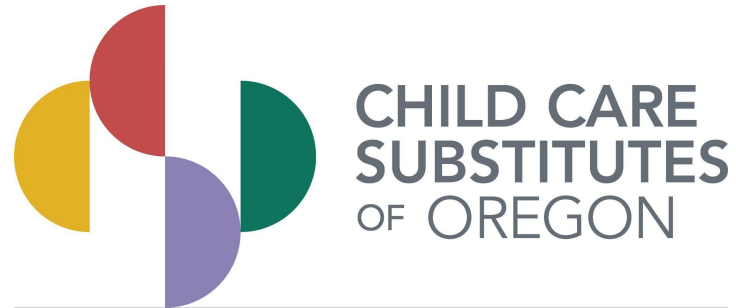
Ford Family Foundation

Partnerships with other WOU departments, OSU,
Pacific Lutheran University



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TRI Reach and Impact





Statewide Impacts

- Distributed more than \$10 million in child care start up grants in 2023-2024
- Provides curriculum and education to all Traffic Safety educators across Oregon
- Maintains Oregon's Child Care database used for family referrals and to monitor the status of the child care field across Oregon
- Staff around Oregon using research based tools in child care programs to provide data for coaching and the state Pre-K system
- Hires, trains and connects substitute educators with child care programs needing additional staff across Oregon
- Nationally recognized community engagement system building work



TRI at WOU

- TRI is a vibrant department at WOU rich with history, talent and diversity.
- TRI's statewide services and national reputation is in service to WOU's core value of serving community while also introducing thousands of potential future students to WOU each year.
- Having a department like TRI at a smaller regional university like WOU can help create a layer of resilience in the delicate balance of university administration. TRI diversifies the funding structure and enhances the diversity of employment opportunities at WOU.





Academic, Student, and Athletic Affairs Committee (ASAAC)

Student Affairs Report

October 2025

Student Success

Welcoming New Students

Western saw strong engagement in onboarding this summer, with nearly 500 new students and 450 guests attending PACK Connect Days, a 15% increase from the previous year. By the end of the sessions, 98% of attendees were registered for classes or had appointments to do so. For those unable to attend, New Student and Family Programs provided one-on-one guidance to connect them to resources and ensure readiness for the fall term.

The **Destination Western** summer bridge program served 152 participants, helping students form early peer connections, gain confidence in the classroom, and transition smoothly into university life.

PACK Welcome Week & Move-In

[PACK Welcome Week](#) once again set a positive tone for the academic year, blending orientation, academic preparation, and social connection. Students chose from 81 educational sessions covering topics from academic success and financial literacy to creative and leadership development opportunities. Nearly 1,400 students participated throughout the week, reflecting strong engagement and enthusiasm.

Move-In was equally successful, with 989 students living on campus, a 6% increase from last year. University Housing welcomed over 100 early arrivals, including athletes, Destination Western students, and staff, helping to create an early sense of community and belonging.

Events hosted by Student Engagement, Student Media, and the Student Activities Board drew over 1,100 participants, with 375 students attending the ASWOU Clubs and Organizations Fair. The Discover Leadership workshop series launched with 21 students and mentors, supporting continued growth in student leadership and involvement.

Supporting Student Success and Retention

Ongoing student support remains a key focus. Abby's House provided course materials and supplies to students facing financial hardship, helping remove barriers to academic success.

The Veterans Resource Center offered critical assistance during the government shutdown, using limited funds to purchase books and supplies for affected Veterans. Enrollment for 2025 increased to 155 student Veterans and family members, demonstrating growth and ongoing engagement in this population.

Across all these efforts, Student Affairs' approach to onboarding, orientation, and continued support reflects a unified commitment to student belonging, persistence, and success — beginning the moment students arrive and continuing through their academic journey.



Transformational Diversity

Student Affairs prioritizes the advancement of transformational diversity through intentional hiring, inclusive programming, and the creation of identity-affirming spaces that promote belonging and leadership.

Abby's House and the Stonewall Center

A new Stonewall Center Coordinator joined the team this summer, bringing diverse experiences that are already enhancing representation in student materials and events. During PACK Welcome Week, Abby's House hosted a successful LGBTQIA2S+ Welcome and Resource Event, connecting students to community and support networks. Recruitment is also underway for an LGBTQ+ Violence Prevention Coordinator, who will lead the Office of Violence Against Women Campus Grant and oversee peer education efforts, expanding professional support for LGBTQ+ students.

Mosaic Center

The new Mosaic Center, located in the Werner University Center, officially opened this fall as a vibrant, student-inspired space for multicultural student organizations. Rooted in cultural identity and advocacy, the center provides a welcoming environment for study, collaboration, and student-led events. It serves as a central hub for leadership development, cross-cultural engagement, and the celebration of intersectional identities, strengthening community across campus.

Veterans Resource Center (VRC)

The VRC represented WOU in organizing and staffing *The Wall That Heals* exhibit in Independence this September, highlighting the university's ongoing commitment to honoring veterans and fostering collaboration between campus and community.

Together, these efforts demonstrate Student Affairs' continued investment in transformational diversity, creating spaces, programs, and leadership opportunities that ensure every student feels seen, supported, and empowered to succeed.

Institutional Sustainability

Student Affairs continues to make strong progress in institutional sustainability through successful grant renewals, revenue generation, and operational efficiencies that strengthen the university's financial health and student support infrastructure.

Strategic Funding and Operational Strength

Abby's House secured \$259,796 in renewed HECC Benefits Navigator funding, ensuring continued support for basic needs coordination and student employment. Additional grants, including new funding from the Roundhouse Foundation and pending applications through Spirit Mountain and Swipe Out Hunger, further expand resources for food security and outreach. Internal process improvements have streamlined operations and enhanced student staff support.

The Child Development Center achieved full renewal of its \$960,000 Preschool Promise Grant for 2025–27, safeguarding critical early learning services despite statewide budget pressures.



Revenue and Resource Generation

Conference and Event Services hosted 25 summer conferences and events, welcoming over 3,100 visitors and generating approximately \$825,000 in departmental revenue, while enhancing WOU's visibility and community engagement.

Student Engagement introduced a vendor partnership program supporting local artists and campus initiatives, and implemented upgraded data systems in the Werner University Center, providing real-time insights into student engagement trends.

Sustained Federal Support

WOU's TRIO Upward Bound program received full federal funding for 2025–26, its 27th consecutive year, maintaining essential support for first-generation and low-income students at a time when many national programs have faced cuts.

Together, these achievements reflect WOU's continued focus on financial resilience, operational excellence, and long-term sustainability, ensuring the university remains well-positioned to meet student and institutional needs into the future.

Community Strength

Student Affairs plays a key role in fostering a strong, connected community by building partnerships, engaging students and staff in shared experiences, and celebrating traditions that strengthen belonging and pride.

This fall, collaborative efforts across Student Affairs enhanced both campus and regional connections. Abby's House expanded local partnerships to increase access to basic needs, securing over 2,000 pounds of donated food through a last-minute collaboration with community partners. The Child Development Center continues to bring campus and families together through events like the annual Trick-or-Treat with the Wolf Pups, engaging dozens of departments and reinforcing WOU's family-friendly culture.

Student Engagement and Student Media played a central role in energizing campus life through signature programs such as Homecoming Week, Wolves Give Back, and the Holiday Tree Lighting and Merry Market. The launch of the Co-Curricular Transcript and Paw Points system has also advanced WOU's goal of recognizing and documenting the full student experience, from service and leadership to skill development.

Fraternity and Sorority Life continues to offer additional avenues for leadership and belonging through active chapters of Kappa Delta Chi and Omega Delta Phi

TRIO Upward Bound and the Veterans Resource Center further strengthened the community through expanded partnerships and engagement. TRIO's collaboration with the Oregon TRIO Association enhanced career readiness programming for high school students, while the Return to Base event saw record participation among Veterans and their families.

Together, these efforts reflect Student Affairs' deep commitment to cultivating a welcoming, service-oriented, and engaged campus community, one where every member has opportunities to connect, contribute, and thrive.

Department of Athletics ASAAC Report- October 2025

Fall sport student-athletes (300+) reported back to campus in mid-August to begin team preparation for their competitive seasons. First year Football, M/W Soccer, Volleyball, M/W Cross Country and Cheer students moved onto campus several weeks prior to Welcome Week to join their new teams. Department stats for 2025-26 will be available on the November Board report.

WOU has hosted numerous cross-country, football, soccer and volleyball meets/matches/games over the past two months as well as the Football Hall of Fame, Wolves on the Green golf outing, the Athletic Hall of Fame and Homecoming. Our men's basketball and baseball teams volunteered to assist with set-up and take-down of the traveling Wall that Heals in Independence in September.

Institutional Sustainability

Goal: Enhance the financial stability and sustainability of the institution through strategic financial planning, responsible resource allocation, and innovative revenue-generation initiatives, ensuring long-term resilience and success.

Athletics goal- Review processes within the department to ensure efficiency within Athletics (staff workload, team travel, recruitment).

Student Success

Goal: Enhance degree completion rates for undergraduate, graduate, and transfer students, through strategic initiatives focused on academic support, streamlined pathways, and the necessary services that ensure timely and successful attainment of their educational goals.

Athletics goal- Monitor student-athlete support systems on campus (NCAA compliance, advising, financial aid, academic support).

Transformational Diversity

Goal: Foster an inclusive educational, living, and work environment at Western Oregon University, ensuring that students and employees feel a profound sense of belonging and have abundant opportunities for growth and success.

Athletics goal- Review policies and procedures within the department ensuring timely, accurate communication (onboarding staff, student support).

Community Strength

Goal: Cultivate and maintain a culture at Western Oregon University that embraces collaboration, connection, and communication as we build meaningful partnerships with internal and external communities, while enriching the educational experience of our students.

Athletics goal- Celebrate the community engagement opportunities that our WOU student-athletes participate in within our community.