



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

Meeting No. 41

February 3, 2026 | 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: October 28, 2025](#) (pg. 2)

IV. REPORT & DISCUSSION ITEMS:

- 1) **Presentation: Digital Accessibility** (3:15-3:45pm)

Emily Herb - Director, Faculty & Staff Access Services;
Dr. Daniel Rockwell - Director, Center for Teaching & Learning

- 2) **Division Updates** (3:45-4:45pm)

- [Athletics](#) | Assistant Athletic Director, Alexa Amundson (pg. 6)
- [Student Affairs](#) | Vice President Tina Fuchs (pg. 7)
- [Academic Affairs](#) | Provost Jose Coll

- 3) [ASAAC Charter Review](#)

V. ADJOURNMENT (4:45pm)

**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 11 percent 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 Nelsetuen 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

Athletics- ASAAC- February 2026

Home events (Fall/Winter):

- 50+ home athletic contests
- Hosted NCAA W Region Cross Country Championship (30+ M/W teams)
- Hosted collegiate, high school, and middle school cross country meets (5000+ participants)
- Hoop-N-Howl men's and women's basketball kickoff event
- Football Hall of Fame and Wolves Athletics Hall of Fame Induction Ceremonies
- Wolves on the Green Golf outing
- Men's Basketball Alumni Night

Academic and Athletic Success:

- Athletic Dept Fall term GPA- 3.1 (187 on Honor Roll)
- Men's and Women's Soccer teams advanced to the NCAA tournament
- Football played for the Lone Star Conference championship in the final game of the season (tied for 2nd)
- Numerous athletic and academic All-GNAC awards throughout the Fall season

Community Engagement (Oct-Dec):

- Monmouth Halloween Trunk or Treat
- Wolves Football tailgate lot- 81 of the 94 available spaces purchased by Wolves Club members and fans
- SAAC hosted a Toy Drive and donated to the Fostering Success program for foster kids in our community
- MLK community service with City of Monmouth
- Fall sport camps

Social Media Reach (Main Athletics Accounts: Sept-Dec):

- Instagram- 5.5 million views
- Facebook- 671,805 views
- X-243,353 impressions
- YouTube-87,323 views

Direct Benefit of Athletics on Campus:

- Campus activity and vibrancy- 1 in 9 students at WOU is a student athlete
- Student employment opportunities- game ops, ticket sales, sports information
- School tradition and culture- fan following and alumni events
- Off campus visibility- team travel, live-stream events, social media
- Retention/Graduation- rates higher than general student population
- Diversity- Over 50% of student athletes identify as non-white

Academic, Student, and Athletic Affairs Committee (ASAAC)
Student Affairs Report
February 2026

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.

Activities & Accomplishments

University Housing

- WOU is seeking funding for the replacement of the Heritage Residence Hall roof project. This project is essential to ensuring long-term resilience, as it safeguards the university's innovative revenue-generation initiatives, specifically, the capacity to safely house 333 current residents and the incoming Fall 2026 first year class. Investing in this infrastructure today prevents the displacement of students and protects the institutional stability required for future success.

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

Activities & Accomplishments

Student Engagement

- The Co-Curricular Transcript has launched. It supplements the academic transcript by giving students a way to share their co-curricular learning, club leadership, awards and recognition, and volunteer service. These features are activated primarily through attendance at events, which is why tracking attendance is more important than ever before. Student participation is at 20% with over 13,500 points earned.

Abby's House

- Supported 14 survivors in Fall term 2025 and allocated \$3,700 on emergency housing & move-in costs for survivors
- Assisted 68 students in the Fall term for basic needs, allocated \$2,328 on course materials (textbooks, calculators, various school supplies for care cupboards), \$1,100 spent on gas gift cards & bus passes, \$2,750 spent on WINCO gift cards
- In the Fall term, 15,289 lbs of food and 2,470 clothing items were distributed in the Food Pantry and Stitch Closet. 430 households, 1,579 individuals. The majority of people who use the Food Pantry and Stitch Closet are students



Student Health & Counseling Center

- Hired a new full-time counselor who began their work at the start of the Winter term 2026.

Student Affairs

- The Young Democratic Socialists of America (YDSA) student organization has been leading work for a petition for WOU to become a sanctuary campus. The office of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion, Campus Public Safety, and Student Affairs have met with these student leaders on several occasions and continue to work to meet students' goals as appropriate and in alignment with the missions, vision, and values of WOU.

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.

Activities & Accomplishments

Student Engagement

- Repurpose the former Freedom Center space into the Mosaic Center. It supports and connects students and organizations rooted in cultural identity, heritage and advocacy. It fosters a sense of belonging, community building and empowerment among historically marginalized student populations. This came from student feedback through various formats.
- Boxes of Hope sponsored by Student Media. 178 students participated. Project to support children in foster care in Polk and Yamhill counties, in partnership with Every Child Polk Yamhill, a program of REACH Northwest. Over the course of two days, 178 WOU students volunteered to build care boxes for foster youth in our area. This was an incredibly collaborative effort and brought many students and WOU departments together.

Abby's House

- Hired an LGBTQ+ Violence Prevention Coordinator who serves as the Project Director for our Office of Violence Against Women (OVW) grant and oversees the Stonewall Center. They started on Nov 17.



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.

Activities & Accomplishments

Student Engagement

- More than 2,700 students and local residents joined us at the Werner University Center during the Holiday Tree Lighting event on December 5.
- Increase in the Werner University Center usage Fall term 2025 compared to Fall term 2024. (12%)
- Discover Leadership credited class Winter Term. 26 enrolled students. Discover Leadership is an interactive, hands-on journey into what it means to be a leader. Participants explore key leadership concepts through discussions, group activities, case studies, and fun challenges that help build confidence and develop a unique leadership identity.
- Spanish translation of certain items and posting online when completed.

Abby's House

- Abby's House has strengthened partnerships to address violence prevention and response on campus through our Office of Violence Against Women grant. Campus partnerships include Public Safety, Title IX, Student Conduct, Residence Life, SHCC, Athletics, and the President's office. Community partnerships include Sable House, Monmouth PD, and Bradley Angle in Portland.
- The Food Pantry gave out 103 Turkey Baskets for Thanksgiving, which fed approximately 450 people in the community.

New Student and Family Programs

- The Western Oregon Family Portal is an effective tool for communicating with families of current students. There are currently 2,318 active users of the portal, and an average open rate of the newsletter of 57%. Our top engagement comes from the following populations with the following open rate percentages:
 - First-Year Families (2,081) - 60%
 - Families for First Gen Students (302) - 70%
 - Families of Transfer Students (273) - 75%
 - Spanish Speaking Families (98) - 54%

Center for Professional Pathways (CPP)

- In collaboration with the City of Monmouth, CPP hosted a MLK, Jr. Day of Service. Approximately 58 WOU volunteers, including the women's softball team participated in a variety of service projects both outdoors, such as graffiti cover up or home projects for seniors; and indoors, such as painting and making welcome bags for the local community shelter. They also made cards for seniors facing isolation and loneliness over the winter season.