



**Western Oregon University Board of Trustees:  
Academic & Student Affairs Committee  
Meeting No. 42– February 3, 2026  
3:00 pm-5:00 pm**

**Meeting Minutes**

**I. CALL-TO-MEETING AND ROLL CALL**

Chair Mitchell calls the Academic & Student Affairs Committee meeting to order at 3:01 pm on Tuesday, February 3, 2026. Chair Mitchell asked Secretary Sorce to call the roll.

**Committee Members Present:** Chair Leah Mitchell, Trustee Bianca Espan, Trustee Juan Larios, Trustee Dana Schowalter

**Committee Members Excused:** Trustee Bob Dalton

**Others Present:** President Peters, Secretary Evan Sorce, Cameron Mortensen, Tina Fuchs, Dr. Jose Coll, Randi Lydum, Emily Herb, Dan Rockwell, Judy Sylva, Margarita Ochoa-Venegas, Megan Habermann, Michael Logan, Susie Garcia.

**II. COMMITTEE CHAIR’S WELCOME**

Chair Mitchell welcomes everyone to the February 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting and says she looks forward to today’s conversations.

**III. CONSENT AGENDA**

[October 28, 2025 Meeting Minutes](#)

Trustee Schowalter moved to approve the October 28, 2025, meeting minutes, and Trustee Larios seconded the motion. There was no additional discussion.

Roll Call on the mention of the motion described above

Chair Mitchell	Aye
Trustee Dalton	Excused
Trustee Larios	Aye
Trustee Schowalter	Aye

Please note: Trustee Espan is a non-voting member

The motion passes.

**IV. REPORTS & DISCUSSION ITEMS: Digital Accessibility:**

- 1) **Showcase & Discussion:** | Emily Herb – Director, Faculty & Staff Access Services;  
Dr. Daniel Rockwell – Director, Center for Teaching & Learning



Chair Mitchell asked Director of Faculty and Staff Access Services, Emily Herb, and the Director for the Center for Teaching and Learning, Dr. Daniel Rockwell. To give their presentation on Digital Accessibility. Like Institutions across the country, Western Oregon University is advancing a comprehensive effort to meet the upcoming ADA Title II digital accessibility requirements, which require compliance with the Web Content Accessibility 2.1 Level AA standards by April 24, 2026. Director Herb emphasized that not only should we comply with this regulation because it will be the law, but that it is also consistent with WOU's institutional values around inclusion, student success, and equitable access, and with our Strategic Plan.

The university has formed an accessibility committee, which has implemented a broad communication and training strategy, including campus-wide outreach, leadership engagement, and a structured training program on converting text, multimedia, images, and web content. Participation has been strong, with over 100 employees in self-paced training and high attendance in live sessions, supported by coordinated efforts across HR, Academic and Student Affairs, Marketing, and Faculty.

Looking ahead, WOU is focusing on closing key operational gaps to ensure full compliance and sustainability. Immediate priorities include implementing a remediation tracking system, integrating accessibility with disability accommodations, expanding captioning capacity, and launching targeted student training. Longer-term efforts will center on developing accessible templates and toolkits, enhancing support systems for faculty and staff, and establishing unit-level accountability for digital accessibility. While meaningful progress is underway, the presentation underscores that additional resources and institutional coordination will be necessary to meet the compliance deadline and maintain a fully accessible digital environment.

## 2) Division Updates:

### a. Athletics | Executive Director Randi Lydum

Executive Director Lydum presented the Athletics report, which is available on page 5 of the docket.

#### **Community Engagement:**

Executive Director Lydum highlighted several Community Engagement events that included students, alumni, and community members, such as the MLK Day of Service Event. Executive Director Lydum, as well as President Peters, have received feedback numerous times this year from community leaders that our Athletics programs' involvement in the local and regional community is recognized and deeply appreciated.

#### **Social Media and Visibility:**



Executive Director Lydum also highlighted that WOU Athletics' Instagram and other social media platforms reached 6.5 million views from September to December 2025, boosting the university's visibility.

**Student Success:**

Finally, the cumulative average GPA for the Fall term for our student athletes was 3.1 with 187 students on the honor roll. We also had teams in soccer and football compete for conference championships and playoffs.

**b. Student Affairs | Vice President for Student Affairs Tina Fuchs**

Vice President for Student Affairs Fuchs gave an overview of her report, which is available on page 6 of the docket.

**Heritage Hall Roof Challenge:**

Vice President Fuchs started the Student Affairs report by talking about the urgent need to replace Heritage Hall's Roof. Heritage Hall is one of our largest Housing facilities and the largest for first-year students. It currently has 333 residents. Housing has been monitoring the roof issue for years now and has patched and done everything else they can to maintain it, but experts say it needs a complete replacement. Cost estimates have escalated over the last couple of years. Currently, the lowest bid is roughly \$3.1 million. Funding options are being explored, including a request to the legislature for funds and private loan options. The Board of Trustees would have to approve this expense. The Finance and Administration Committee will hear more about this at their meeting, and staff expect the full board to consider this at their February 25 Board meeting.

**Student Engagement:**

On the Student Engagement front, Vice President Fuchs highlighted that Student Engagement has launched co-curricular transcripts to document leadership and extracurricular activities for students' job applications. Additionally, Student Media's Boxes of Hope project, which provided care kits for foster youth in Marion and Polk Counties, involved 178 students in their construction. Lastly, Abby's House, through its food pantry, provided 103 turkey baskets for students and campus community members at Thanksgiving.

**New Students and Family Programs:**

New Family and Student Programs has launched a Family Portal that keeps families informed about what is happening on campus.

**Response to Campus Protest Incident:**

Following the protest incident in December, there was the creation of a task force to re-examine the Time, Place, Manner policy as well as the campus protocols for responding to a protest on campus.



**Personnel Update:**

Finally, Brittany Kima has been hired as the Executive Assistant to the Vice President of Student Affairs, and the President has created a search committee to complete a national search for a Vice President of Student Affairs, as VPSA Fuchs is retiring this summer.

**c. Academic Affairs | Provost Jose Coll**

Dr. Jose Coll provided his update on Academic Affairs. His report is available on page 9 of the docket.

**Writing Center:**

Dr. Coll highlighted that relocating the writing center to the library increased in-person usage (726 one-on-one appointments in Fall 2025 term, the highest since 2022).

**Sponsored Research:**

Dr. Coll announced that the Sponsored Projects office has moved to University Advancement for streamlined grant/funding processes.

**The Research Institute (TRI):**

TRI received an additional \$1.23 million through the Oregon Department of Early Learning and Care's Preschool Development Grant. This funding is an amendment to the current \$8.1 million SPARK contract and is part of a larger \$7.3 million federal award to Oregon focused on strengthening early childhood systems statewide.

**Enrollment Management:**

Applications up 34%, completed applications up 36%, admissions up 38%, and deposits up 139% (358 confirmed vs. 150 last year). The enrollment management team is growing more cautiously optimistic that the University will exceed its goal of 670 new first-year students in the Fall of 2026.

Persistence rate from fall to winter of 94%, indicating strong retention.

Academic Affairs is preparing for capacity challenges in first-year class offerings amid the possibility of increased enrollment.

**V. ASAAC CHARTER REVIEW:**

Secretary Sorce asked committee members to review the current ASAAC Charter in the shared document linked in the docket. Secretary Sorce reminded committee members



to ensure the document is in suggested mode so that track changes are on.

**VI. ADJOURNMENT:**

Trustee Mitchell adjourns the meeting at 04:36 pm