



**Western Oregon University Board of Trustees:
Executive, Governance, and Trusteeship Committee (EGTC)
Meeting No. 47
February 13, 2026 | 10:30-12:30 pm**

Meeting Minutes

I. CALL-TO-MEETING AND ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order at 10:32 AM by Vice-Chair Kari Nelsestuen, presiding in the absence of Chair Fasana.

Present Trustees: Vice-Chair Kari Nelsestuen, Trustee Jerry Ambris, Trustee Gayle Evans, Trustee Leah Mitchell

Trustees Excused: Chair Angela Fasana

Staff: Evan Sorce, Ryan Schnobrich, Mila Bekwinknoll, Jesse Peters, Cameron Mortenson, Craig Ashford

A quorum was established.

II. COMMITTEE CHAIR'S WELCOME

Acting Chair Nelsestuen welcomed attendees and reflected on the importance of governance work in advancing Western Oregon University (WOU) 's mission and supporting the broader higher education system in Oregon. She highlighted recent legislative advocacy efforts, including student participation in Lobby Day noting the strong impact of a student engagement at the Capitol.

III. CONSENT AGENDA

IV. REPORT & DISCUSSION ITEMS

- 1) [Internal Audit Update](#) | Ryan Schnobrich CPA, CIA, CFE

Acting Chair Nelsestuen introduced Mr. Ryan Schnobrich, who presented an update from Internal Audit Services. Mr Schnobrich's presentation can be found on page 2 of the docket for review. Mr. Schnobrich gave an update on the Internal Audit Services, including that Mr. Terry has moved to Oregon State University. Additionally, the Internal Audit team intern, Mila Berkwinknoll, has been hired and will be working with WOU in addition to Mr. Schnobrich. In addition, they mention that they are having regular meetings with Senior Leadership and have requested meetings with Chair Fasana.

Mr. Schnobrich also mentioned that the Internal Audit Team is working with management to roll out the Ethics Point Hotline, which will allow for anonymous

reporting, triage allegations, route them to the General Counsel's office, and investigate and make determinations. All investigation reports will be shared with the board. Trustee Mitchel asked whether the Board would receive communications about allegations that have been reported to the hotline, even if they are not substantiated. Mr. Schnobrich mentioned that, traditionally, they disclose this as an update at the committee level, noting the number of allegations that have come into the hotline since the last meeting. The portal is currently open, and there will be an educational component with a presentation in the future. Trustee Evans asked if the system will be available for our external auditors as well? The answer is yes, they will get a summary of what has come through the ethics point hotline.

a) Employment Eligibility Audit:

Mr. Schnobrich then transitioned to the Employment Eligibility Audit which is ongoing. The scope is FY24 & FY25 Form I-9. The next audit scheduled is the Human Resources – Background Checks and Fair Credit Reporting Act Compliance audit in the summer of 2026.

b) Proposed Internal Audit Charter:

Next, Mr. Schnobrich transitioned to discussing the proposed internal audit charter, which incorporates the new 2024 internal audit standards. The audit charter includes specific responsibilities for the Board, Management, and Internal Auditors. This is a total rewrite of the charter. The Board will continue to review this proposal and will vote on it in a future meeting. Trustee Evans asked for more information on the decision of who the university would appoint as Chief Audit Executive. Mr. Schnobrich said that the standards really recommend someone in the General Counsel's office, but he has also seen it be the Vice President of Finance and Administration. President Peters added that his initial thought would be VPFA Boayke, given his background as a certified auditor, but understand the desire for counsel to have it. He recommended a huddle between management to make a decision to get back to the board.

c) Proposed Changes to EGTC Charter and Board Statement on Board Committees:

There was also a small change to the EGTC Charter and the Board Statement on Board Committees, both documents' changes reflected changes to the standards and clarifications that the Executive Governance and Trusteeship is the audit committee. The Board will continue to review those two documents and will vote on them in the future.

d) Risk Assessment for FY 27:

Mr. Schnobrich then transitioned to discussing the risk assessment process. The risk assessment survey has been distributed, risk assessment interviews have been scheduled, and a discussion about the FY 27 internal audit plan will start shortly.

2) Update on the President's Evaluation:

Vice-Chair Nelsestuen asked General Counsel Ashford to give an update about the President's evaluation. The board just wrapped up the feedback period for the general public to participate in the President's evaluation survey. The board received 136

responses to their survey evaluating the President's job performance. The survey is still open to key stakeholders (i.e senior leaders, members of the President's cabinet, external stakeholders). General Counsel Ashford emphasized that no one else sees the identifiable information to ensure that the data is anonymous. General Counsel Ashford also explained that the data will be compiled into a report for the board, including quantitative measurements and thematic breakdowns of open-ended responses, which will inform a decision on whether to extend the president's contract. The board plans to review this feedback later this year, potentially in an executive session, with the goal of authorizing the Board Chair to negotiate a contract extension, which would have to be reviewed and approved by the full board.

Mr. Schnobrich gave an internal audit presentation that starts on page 20 for review. Mr. Schnobrich mentioned that the Journal Vouchers Audit Report will have to be moved to the next Fiscal Year because the auditor leading it went on FMLA, and he was out on a long vacation. The report will be completed and ready for the fall.

3) General Counsel Update | Craig Ashford, General Counsel

General Counsel provided a brief update on the ongoing women's basketball litigation, noting progress in discovery, but no specific resolution yet. Trustee Evans raised concerns about our previous law firm's representation and withdrawal, which General Counsel Ashford addressed by explaining the circumstances and offering to arrange impartial legal advice for further exploration of the issue.

4) President Peters Update | President Jesse Peters

President Peters provided an update on the University Lobby Day, highlighting the strong student turnout and meetings with key officials, including Tim Knopp, the Governor's Chief Prosperity Officer; the Governor's Chief of Staff; and Director Ben Cannon, the Higher Education Coordinating Commission Director. President Peters expressed concerns about the state's lack of support for higher education, particularly regarding Southern Oregon University's financial situation, and emphasized the need to differentiate Western from other regionals. President Peters noted that while WOU is not currently at risk of running out of money, the institution must operate independently and focus on its own financial stability. Secretary Sorce added that the President's definitely had a different experience than faculty, staff, and students, but that was done by design. It is a challenging situation and we are trying to find ways to better communicate our needs to legislators.

V. ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Secretary Sorce reminded the committee that the February Board meeting will be a one-day full-day board meeting on February 25th. The lunch will be a conversation with students who are engaged in student leadership or active in student clubs and organizations. Additionally, the Board will hear discussions on the Heritage Hall renovations, the Turf Field Project, and our external audits.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

Vice-Chair Nelsestuen adjourned the meeting at 11:50 pm