

WOU FACULTY GOVERNANCE CHARTER

PREAMBLE

Realization of the University's potential requires the cooperative efforts of all its components, including the students, the faculty, the president, other administrators, classified personnel, alumni, and friends. The WOU Faculty Governance Charter and Bylaws serve as statements of agreement between the president and the faculty of WOU regarding the faculty's role in this cooperative effort.

ARTICLE I Definitions

Section 1. Faculty governance is defined as the principles, democratic processes and organizational structure by which the faculty arrives at group decisions or takes representative action relative to the structure, function, and general welfare of WOU.

Section 2. Faculty is defined as all those members of faculty units who hold academic rank of adjunct instructor or above, the title of lecturer, or the title of visiting professor.

Section 3. Eligible faculty is defined as those faculty serving

- a) appointments which are
 - i. .50 FTE or above on at least a nine-month appointment at WOU, and
 - ii. in at least their second consecutive nine-month appointment, or
- b) tenured or on tenure-track appointment at WOU.

ARTICLE II Authority and Objectives of Faculty Governance

Section 1. The WOU Faculty Governance Charter and Bylaws serve as statements of agreement between the president and the faculty of WOU as to the philosophy, purposes, and means of university governance.

Section 2. Faculty governance is lodged in the following bodies:

- a. The Faculty Senate of WOU and its committees.
- b. Divisional/departmental faculties and their committees.
- c. Other faculty units identified in Article IV, Section 2.

Section 3. Faculty governance bodies shall conform to all laws, regulations, and limits defined by federal and state law, the Administrative Rules of the Oregon University System, and the WOU Collective Bargaining Agreement.

Section 4. Working within the framework of its authority, faculty governance has as its objectives to:

- a. Determine and establish evaluating policies and activities consistent with the mission of the University.

- b. Create, maintain, and protect a curriculum and environment conducive to the full and free development of learning, teaching and research.
- c. Provide representative faculty opinion and advice to individuals and offices within the University and State System of Higher Education.

ARTICLE III

The Faculty Senate

Section 1. The Faculty Senate represents eligible faculty as defined in Article I of this Charter and has both the authority and the responsibility to represent the faculty within the limits defined by the Faculty Governance Charter and Bylaws.

Section 2. To carry out this responsibility, the Faculty Senate:

- a. reviews the overall functioning of the University;
- b. identifies and assigns priority to questions, concerns, and requests which need to be addressed or delegates action to faculty committees;
- c. coordinates the work of Faculty Senate committees;
- d. provides for the periodic faculty review of peers, support staff, and administration;
- e. when deemed necessary by the Faculty Senate, studies and prepares recommendations to the President of WOU concerning the welfare of the students and faculty, faculty personnel decisions, academic policies and regulations, educational standards, curricula, and budget.

ARTICLE IV

Membership of the Faculty Senate

Section 1. The Faculty Senate consists of one Senator per ten WOU faculty FTE and/or major fraction thereof, elected from each faculty unit identified in Section 2 of this Article. All faculty units must have at least one Senator position. For purposes of determining the eligible number of senators, non-tenure-track FTE will count at half the rate of tenure-track FTE.

Section 2. Faculty units, for purposes of representation are: 1) Business & Economics; 2) Creative Arts; 3) Computer Science; 4) Health and Physical Education; 5) Humanities; 6) Library & Media Services; 7) Natural Sciences and Mathematics; 8) Psychology; 9) Social Science; 10) Special Education; 11) Teacher Education.

Section 3. No later than the middle of each Spring term, the Executive Committee shall ascertain the number of eligible faculty FTE in each unit for the purpose of determining the number of Senators elected by each unit.

Section 4. The president of WOU and the immediate past president of the Faculty Senate are ex-officio, nonvoting members of the Senate, except when the latter shall be continuing to serve an elected senatorial term.

Section 5. Each member of the Faculty Senate is expected to attend meetings regularly. A unit may provide an alternate in the absence of an elected senator, identifying the alternate to the Senate President prior to the meeting.

ARTICLE V Elections to the Faculty Senate

Section 1. Each of the faculty units elects its representatives. Representatives are elected by majority vote. Elections are conducted during spring term each year.

Section 2. Only eligible faculty may vote in a senator election.

Section 4. Terms of office are two years unless filling a position with an unexpired term, in which case the elected Senator will hold office until that term ends.

ARTICLE VI Rules of Procedure

Section 1. A majority of the members of the Faculty Senate shall constitute a quorum for transaction of business.

Section 2. All actions or recommendations of the Faculty Senate shall be by a majority of members present and voting.

Section 3. The President of the Faculty Senate shall be responsible for distributing the agenda for each Faculty Senate meeting at least three calendar days prior to the scheduled meeting.

Section 4. All actions requiring a vote of the Faculty Senate will be presented over two meetings. At the first meeting the item will appear under New Business; the issue will be presented in writing and a representative from the sponsoring party should be present to summarize the proposal and address questions. At the second meeting the item will appear under Old Business, with the intent that it may be voted upon, although further discussion is possible. A representative should be present at the second meeting also.

Section 5. Any member of the faculty may ask the Senate Executive Committee to consider items or issues one week in advance of the Senate meeting. New business not on the published agenda may be heard during New Business, subject to Article 6, Section 4.

Section 6. Any action of the Faculty Senate may be subject to review by the faculty. A petition for appeal must be signed by twenty (20) percent of the entire faculty and presented to the Senate President within ten (10) days of the posting of the minutes of the meeting at which the action was taken. The item(s) appealed shall then be distributed to the eligible faculty for vote by secret ballot. A majority of those voting shall be required to reverse the Faculty Senate's action.

Section 7. Subject to the above restrictions, the Faculty Senate is empowered to make faculty governance bylaws. Such bylaws can be established, deleted, or amended only by a two-thirds majority of senators voting.

ARTICLE VII

Committees of the Faculty Senate

Section 1. The Faculty Senate establishes, defines, and coordinates those committees deemed necessary to the functioning of all University faculty governance and other such committees as it sees useful. These shall include committees dealing with personnel, budget, curriculum, and student concerns.

Section 2. When deemed necessary, the Faculty Senate should select from its own membership a Committee on Committees to advise it on matters pertaining to structure, charge, and functioning of committees. Such action should be taken during any year featuring wide-scale committee assessment and review. A standing committee is not needed for occasional adjustments or membership appointments.

Section 3. Senate committees shall review all major policy or curriculum proposals. Major policies and proposals include changes in program hours, program elimination or addition, proposals that impact members of the other college or administrative units, and others identified by the Senate. These will be forwarded to the Senate committees by committees serving the same function within the College of Education, the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, or by administrative officers. Recommendations for implementation will occur following approval by the Faculty Senate committee and the Faculty Senate or Senate Executive Committee, and forwarded to the appropriate administrative officers.

Section 4. Each Senate committee is responsible for reporting to the Senate all actions involving recommendations, changes in campus policy, or curriculum change. The Senate reserves the right to endorse or reject committee actions or recommendations or refer them back to the committee for further consideration.

Section 5. Every WOU faculty member will be provided access to committees dealing with personnel, curriculum, and budget through bylaws established by the college or department/division in which the majority of their assignments occur.

ARTICLE VIII

Division and Department Faculties

Section 1. Provisions of the article apply to the academic units of the College of Education and also the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences.

Section 2. Governance in the Colleges of Education and Liberal Arts and Sciences is determined by bylaws drafted by the faculty of each division and approved by a majority of the members of that faculty. College bylaws may be adopted to deal with college-wide

concerns. Departments may adopt bylaws to deal with departmental affairs. The bylaws shall provide for adequate participation by the faculty in curricular, personnel, and budgetary decision-making. College committees shall be broadly representative of the constituent divisions or departments. College, division, and department bylaws shall be compatible with the provisions of this Charter and with Faculty Senate bylaws. The Faculty Senate is the final body of appeal in case of a challenge to the provisions of unit bylaws or their interpretation.

Section 3. College of Liberal Arts and Sciences and College of Education chairpersons are appointed by and are responsible to the President of WOU. The length of terms and number of terms of chairs are to be determined by appropriate bylaws. Chairpersons shall be selected by the President from the nomination or nominations forwarded by the division or department through the Dean of the College. Provision shall be made in College or division bylaws for periodic evaluations of chairpersons, and for recommendations, prior to the end of appointed terms, for reappointment or selection of chairpersons.

ARTICLE IX

Amendment

Section 1. An amendment to this Charter may be proposed by either

- a. two-thirds of the members of the Faculty Senate present and voting; or
- b. an initiative petition signed by twenty (20) percent of the eligible faculty and presented to the President of the Faculty Senate.

Section 2. An amendment thus submitted shall become a part of this Charter when approved, by secret ballot, by a majority of those voting in Faculty Senate elections.

Section 3. The Faculty Senate should review and, if necessary, amend the Senate Charter and Bylaws every five years, or as conditions warrant, subject to Sections 1 and 2 of this article.

[Last Amended: April 2012]