

Shared Governance at Western Oregon University

In response to recent statements in the Faculty Senate about university governance, as well as a review of official documents of Western Oregon University, we recommend the following principles of shared governance:

1. Leaders of all sectors of the university should review the "WOU Faculty Governance Charter" which defines the collegial governing roles of students, faculty, and administration. This Charter states:

"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."

2. In article I, section one of the Governance Charter reads: "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. "

3. The strength and diversity of the university requires the collaborative efforts of all representatives of Western Oregon University based on the principles as defined in the "WOU Faculty Governance Charter."