



July 3, 2025

WOU Community:

As we start a new budget year, I want to take a moment to thank you all for your commitment to WOU's fiscal sustainability. In my message on May 20, I said that *our stability will come from our ability to reimagine how we deliver on our strengths*. One of our strengths is our community, particularly, our ability to pull together and adapt to challenging financial situations while putting students at the center of what we do. And these are indeed challenging times for higher education.

As I'm sure you are aware, the federal bill working its way through congress will have significant impacts on higher education. We are also seeing reductions in state and federal grants. Recently the University of Oregon announced a \$23 million budget deficit, and PSU and SOU are also addressing deficit budgets. In my Vision for the Future document I sent to camps in May, I outlined the goals we need to meet and where we need to go as we take steps to balance our budget. Many units are starting discussions about innovation and strategy as we address our deficit.

Attached is a budget memo provided by Vice President of Finance and Administration, Kwabena Boakye, that provides context for the work we will engage in this year. In it, he calls on the community to make careful and deliberate spending decisions, and he outlines some steps we will take as we work to contain costs.

I appreciate your hard work and dedication during challenging times. Let's all continue the diligent work as we welcome students to our campus in the fall, providing them the best experience possible. Our vibrant and welcoming campus is one of our greatest assets.

Thank you.

Jesse Peters, President
Western Oregon University

Attachment: [VPFA FY26 Budget Memo](#)