

Staff Senate Minutes

May 18, 2021 (10:00am–11:30am)

Online Via Zoom

Call to Order via ZOOM video conference

<https://wou-edu.zoom.us/j/87897720468?pwd=b2wyUDJqSjRTK1ExSzd1dURwZkdZndz09>

Start recording

- Reminder that meeting is being recorded, which includes all chats
- <https://wou-edu.zoom.us/rec/share/DVzbsHG2HGJ1W2eZBs9ULiuKtQ7fwTCCOL1Mse2TMmLkhe4IVnsnZEhLSaJv2ASV.r98WvwAgVe9m026Q> Passcode: %A5fnJYQ

In attendance: Michelle Gallagher, Olivia Flores, Jenna Otto, Samantha Cameron, Kelly Rush, Laura Tierney, Adrian Trujillo Rip Horsey, Beth Jones, Melissa Hizman

Absent: Tony Manso

Guests: Katherine Schmidt, Anel Venegas Trujillo, Sheree Solatio, Leslie Lloyd, Sharon Price

Approval of minutes

- Draft in Staff Senate Team Drive for May 4, 2020
 - Changed Rip from Absent to Late

Reports

- Committee Reports
 - Administrative Equity
 - Meeting set for May 26th
 - HR representatives will be present to answer any HR related questions
 - Shared Governance
 - There was a shared governance summit last Friday that talked about the search committee and process for the hiring the new WOU President
 - Issues that were talked about include diversity in the hiring of the candidate and the makeup of the search committee and the search firm.
 - Question- was anything talked about regarding a “search advocate”?

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- No, that was not brought up at the summit.
- A search advocate is a trained individual who is a part of the process that helps to facilitate and increase transparency of the process. This person is a part of the committee but not a voting member.
- Question was asked about why this is something that Student Affairs is doing but is not being implemented campus wide.
 - The board was clear in the summit that the structure of the search committee was not going to change for this search, but advocating/asking about the search advocate is something that we should do.
 - Any questions or comments can be sent to the Board or facilitated through Jenna
- Scholarship
 - Waiting for the scholarship nominations to be sent out for our committee to review.
- Other?

Unfinished Business

- Staff Senate General Elections
 - Nominations
 - Request for nominations have been sent out
 - 7 accepted nominations for unclassified members
 - 1 accepted nomination for classified members
 - Schedule vote
 - In the next two weeks the vote will be sent out to the staff senate to vote on!
- Back to campus
 - Staff Survey
 - Exec Committee has been working with SEIU to create a return to campus survey that can be sent out to staff members to gauge feelings on some key topics in terms of COVID and returning to campus
 - The survey is about 33 questions long, collected anonymously, and all questions are optional.

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- Senators are hopeful that this gets sent out sooner rather than later since decisions are already being made and shared.
- A point was made that it is important to notify staff members who typically do not have computer access/or access their emails frequently to make sure that their voices are heard. We can inform their supervisors/union reps to make sure that those staff know about the survey.
- There is concern with everyone coming back all at once with UCS and Facilities- there should be a more staggered approach
- A question was raised regarding what is the point of the survey if VP's have already notified different departments/divisions.
 - The hope is that the survey would at least provide some qualitative and quantitative data that would allow for them to reevaluate their decision.
- Rip moves to approve the the Staff Return to Campus survey as presented in the Google Drive to be sent out this month, Adrian seconded the motion
 - Approved 10-0-0
- Cookbook
 - No one is present from staff connections to provide an update. Jenna will be reaching out for an email update.
- Committee Needs
 - UTAC and Staff Connections will need members, will be sharing in June with the new members.
- Presidential Search
 - Interim
 - Permanent
- Guest speakers for Spring Term
 - Michael Ellis will share at our June 1st meeting for UCS
 - Cara Groshong will be sharing at our June 15th for UBAC

New Business

- Vaccine Requirements

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- Exemptions
- Enforcement
- Lack of information
- There was a meeting that talked about the plan to return to campus and the vaccine requirements and what exceptions would be allowed. Right now there is not a formal plan but it looks like this vaccine exemption will follow the same process as the current required vaccines for students.
- There will most likely not be a way for folks to know who and who is not vaccinated or the general percentage of vaccinated staff, students, or faculty at WOU.
- There will be another meeting to discuss this on June 7th. Send any questions to Jenna.
- The mask requirement is still up in the air as when and where it would or would not be required. Most likely mandatory in resident halls.
- There are incentives to get the vaccine with a discount code through the bookstore.
- Question- does the return to campus date coincide with the vaccine requirement? Is it the summer start date or a Fall date? How will staff members show that they have been vaccinated? Staff should know how this process works now since it takes time to get fully vaccinated if you have not been already.
- A concern was raised about the lack of information for students about the process of getting vaccinated/exemptions as registration is now for the Fall and students are hesitant to register until there are more answers for them.
- A concern was brought up that HEPA filters have been showing mixed results in some data collections which is a raise of concern to departments and especially facilities who are going through a lot of work to get this installed for offices and classrooms.
- Another concern was raised about the mask requirement and how that will work at WOU. How will staff, students and faculty know who is and is not vaccinated and also not wearing a mask if they are concerned about that.

Announcements

- Public Comments - Anything for the good of the order?
 - Jenna thanked Olivia and Sam for their exec work this past year. The new exec board



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will be starting up in June.

Adjourn

Melissa motioned to adjourn and Laura seconded it. 10-0-0

Upcoming Meetings:

- June 1, 2021 10:00am - 11:30am
- June 15, 2021 10:00am - 11:30am