



Staff Senate Agenda

February 17, 2026 (2:00-3:30pm)

Meeting location - Calapooia Room in the Werner University Center 130

<https://wou.edu/ces/conference-and-event-services/meeting-spaces/werner-university-center/22870-2/>

Welcome

- Conversation opportunities for personal and professional updates with guests and Senators

Staff Senate follows Simplified Robert's Rules

- Under simplified rules, it allows for a little less formal communication, still providing everyone opportunities to bring forth their ideas.

Approval of this agenda

- Approval as is, additions, or adjustments must be approved

Approval of past meeting minutes

- February 3 Minutes in the shared drive and ready for approval

Guest Speakers

Reports

- Committee Reports
 - Shared Governance
 - Next Meeting: March 11, 2026
 - President's Cabinet
 - Discussion around budget realities and strategies
 - SOU financial challenges
 - A report was given that cash flow and reserves may run out
 - Lobby Day
 - Importance of supporting higher education; 60 participants signed up
 - Legislative actions and ramifications
 - University Council
 - Peer Comparator Update Presentation (Judy Sylva and Jessica Murfin)
 - Budget Process and Tools (Camarie Moreno)
 - Other - Administrative Equity, Staff Connections, University Advisory Committees, etc.

Vice President's Corner

- Other shared governance information, elections, reminders, etc.
- Recruitment for Staff Senate
 - Classified vacant seat - still looking (please reach out if you have questions)



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continued...

Secretary/Treasurer's Updates

- Financial, business-related, fun facts, random questions, etc.

Unfinished Business

- Discussing SMART Goals and Strategies for 2025-2026
 - Scholarship strategy - payroll deduction for forty staff asking for \$5 [drive] will be incorporated with Giving Day, and can be done beforehand too.
 - Establishing ways to enhance cross-communication among staff regarding the different areas of change, efficiencies, training, feedback, and data collection survey
 - How can we continue to advise and make recommendations to the university president on matters relevant to staff for the overall success of the university without input?
 - Dr. Peter's listed it out, "...we are always open to ideas and suggestions. We want to hear what is going well, but we also want to know what challenges people are facing."
 - Also with his statement in mind, "We have shifted systems, revised how we do our work, implemented a new strategic plan, implemented an equity action plan, changed recruiting strategies and marketing, achieved reaccreditation, engaged in new ways with communities, and opened a new student success center."
 - It seems to be a moment when it is okay to assess where we may be in the [cycle of change](#). (This is not an endorsement of the specific model, just an example of stages within change that seemed easy to look through.)
 - A conversation to hear if staff are still hesitant in providing honest, direct, or maybe not in alignment with the original direction feedback, survey ideas?
 - Feedback can cause discomfort or awkwardness
 - Culture is driven through moments of truth
 - It is part of the Staff Senate's mission to "Promote positive, respectful, and constructive dialogue among staff, faculty, administrators, and students."
 - Perhaps this is just something of lore, which is why we are asking.

New Business

- Discussion around "Strengthening the Pack -- Looking Forward" email sent out on Tuesday, February 10th.
- March 17, 2026 - Recruitment event, 2:00-3:30 pm, ideas?

Announcements and Reminders

- Announcements
 - Digital Accessibility Requirements 101
 - Newsletter section with a Did you know? And the tip of the week
 - WOU digital accessibility training underway



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continued...

- Agenda item suggestions can be made to staffsenate@wou.edu or wou.edu/staffsenate
- Important Training Reminders
 - Business Office
 - Campus-Wide Trainings- Watch for emails from Cheri Darby and Sandra Holland
 - Check out the @WOU Newsletter for more optional events, departmental updates, and training opportunities
- Kudos/Recognition
- Public Comments - Anything for the good of the order?

Upcoming

- Next meeting: March 3, 2026, @ 2 pm
 - Werner University Center (WUC) room 130
 - Guest: TBD

Adjourn