



The University Council is responsible for determining the degree to which the university is meeting its mission and is engaged in comprehensive, ongoing, systematic assessment of its work that leads to mission fulfillment and improvement.

MINUTES

1. Welcome (*President Peters*)

The meeting began with a roundtable of introductions, since there are several new members. President Peters discussed the history of the University Council and why the group was originally created to ensure alignment with accreditation requirements and recommendations.

2. Advisory Committee Updates

- **University Budget Advisory Committee (UBAC) (*Zach Hammerle*)**

UBAC has had one meeting so far to discuss the FY25 year-end budget. There was an overspend of \$2 million, and KB shared a viability metric to compare WOU to industry standards. The next town hall budget meeting will be on October 29th (3-5pm) in the Pacific Room. UBAC is also updating their website to include more up-to-date notetaking. The committee is looking for a new faculty member to join.

- **University Diversity & Inclusion Advisory Committee (UDIAC) (*Dominique Vargas*)**

Dominique began with recap and review of why the committee was created. UDIAC will be focusing on next steps regarding the equity assessment, as well as realigning their charge. Due to WLU changes in faculty, they are looking at adjustments that can be made to allow faculty to join.

- **University Technology Advisory Committee (UTAC) (*Chelle Batchelor*)**

UTAC met for their retreat during campus kickoff week - focusing on data governance, Ellucian experience, and accessibility policy (which is in the implementation process and will be sent out for public comment to campus soon). UTAC will be creating a subcommittee to focus on data governance, which will be a primary focus for the year.

3. Accreditation Update (*Judy Sylva*)

Judy recapped that the NWCCU accreditation cycle began in Spring 2023. The most recent report was positive and confirmed that the reviewers saw steps they were looking for, as well as additional recommendations. One of the recommendations was focused on Standard 2 (Governance, Resources, and Capacity). Judy shared examples of action items that WOU community members can do, which will be added to the strategic planning/accreditation websites later on. There was a large emphasis on the “why” behind doing this work, which is more than just to maintain accreditation - the impact enhances institutional sustainability and student success/accessibility. In February 2026, the mid-cycle self-evaluation report and FRR will be due, and the next NWCCU site visit will be in April 2026. The presentation is available on the [University Council website](#).

4. Strategic Plan Update (*Judy Sylva*)

The University Council is responsible for evaluating WOU’s strategic plan to inform continuous improvement. The current step of the process (step 2 of 4) includes creating a timeline and format for how/when outcomes will be evaluated. The first formal assessment/evaluation from UC will be in 2027-28. When areas are reporting on their strategic plans (unit/department levels aligning to division strategic plans, as well as division levels aligning to institutional strategic plans), they will focus on the strategies and initiatives being used, as well as next steps for improvement. The presentation is available on the [University Council website](#).

5. Announcements

- Thursday October 9, 2025 - Loteria to celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month (including vendors and music).
- Information TBA around free speech month
- CDC Wolf Pups will be trick-or-treating in the WUC on Halloween
- UBAC Town Hall - October 29, 2025 from 3-5pm in Pacific Room
- Free Civic Leadership Workshop (English and Spanish) hosted at Independence City Hall - reach out to Evan Sorce if you/students are interested