

Membership of the WOU Faculty Senate

The Faculty Senate consists of one senator per ten faculty FTE, elected for two-year terms from each academic unit. For the 2015 - 2016 academic year, the Faculty Senate will include the following (numbers of senators): Behavioral Science (2), Business & Economics (2), Computer Science (1), Creative Arts (4), Deaf Studies and Professional Studies (2), Health & Exercise Science (2), Humanities (4), Library & Media Services (1), Natural Science & Mathematics (4), Social Science (4), and Teacher Education (3)

The Faculty Senate Executive Committee, who is charged with the general supervision of the affairs of the Faculty Senate, consists of an elected President, Vice President, and Secretary, the Past President and two elected At-Large Senators.

Faculty Senate Meetings

The Faculty Senate meets for 90 minutes on the second and fourth Tuesdays of the month during the academic year. After the typical meeting call to order, call of the roll and approval of minutes from the previous meeting, there are institutional reports from the Faculty Senate President, the University President, the University Provost and the ASWOU President. Faculty Senate that proceeds with consideration of old and new business and concludes with informational presentations and reports.

Main Committees of the Faculty Senate (see wou.edu/facultysenate for a complete list)

The Academic Infrastructure Committee provides a campus-wide faculty voice for development of academic infrastructure, with general duties including policy review, planning, implementation, and problem solving; the Academic Requirement considers various policies concerning academic requirements and alerts the Faculty Senate of issues concerning students and academic standards.; the Curriculum Committee reviews undergraduate curricular matters; the Graduate Committee reviews graduate curricular matters; and the Honors Committee serves in a review and advisory capacity with regard to the university's academic Honors Program.

Charter, Bylaws and Faculty Shared Governance (see wou.edu/facultysenate for full documents)

The WOU Faculty Governance Charter and Bylaws serves as statements of agreement between the president and the faculty of WOU regarding the faculty's role in this cooperative effort. 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.

To carry out this responsibility, the Faculty Senate

- a. reviews the overall functioning of the university;
- b. identifies and assigns priority to questions, concerns, and requests which need to be addressed or delegates such action to faculty committees;
- c. coordinates the work of Faculty Senate committees;
- d. provides for the periodic review of work submitted by faculty peers, support staff, and administration;
- e. and, when deemed necessary by the Faculty Senate, studies and prepares recommendations to the president of WOU concerning the welfare of the students and faculty, faculty personnel decisions, academic policies and regulations, educational standards, curricula, and budget.

FACULTY SENATE BUSINESS – EXAMPLES FROM 2014- 2015

Curriculum: Program Updates

- Art
- ASL Studies
- Building Codes
- Chemistry
- Chemistry Teacher Education
- Chicano/a Studies
- Communication Studies
- Community Health Education
- Community Services
- Computer Science
- Computer Science/Mathematics
- Crime Analysis
- Dance
- Early Childhood Studies
- Earth Science
- English
- English/Linguistics
- Entrepreneurship
- Exercise Science
- Film Studies
- Forensic Anthropology
- Forensic Chemistry
- Forensic Psychology
- Gerontology
- History
- International Studies
- MA Interpreting Studies
- Mathematics
- Mathematics Teacher Education
- MEd Information Technology
- Political Science
- Psychology
- Public Policy and Administration Major
- Social Science
- Spanish
- Special Education/Rehabilitation Counseling
- Teaching English as a Foreign Language
- Visual Communication Design

Curriculum: New Programs

- Deaf and Hard of Hearing Education (in HECC process now)

Curriculum: Course Updates and New Courses

- 215 fully approved proposals as of 5-26-15!

Faculty Senate Business Items 2014 – 2015

- Class Scheduling Guidelines
- Fossil Fuel Divestment at WOU
- General Education Committee proposal
- Incomplete Grade processing
- LEAP at WOU Proposal (adoption of LEAP learning outcomes - university wide)
- Method for electing WOU Board faculty representatives
- Placement Policy for First Year Writing Courses
- Revised Catalog Graduation Requirements display
- Tobacco-free WOU

Faculty Senate Reports 2014 – 2015

- Faculty Evaluation System Status Report
- Governing Board Report
- International Student Support Services Report
- Passport Initiative Report
- Presidential Search Report
- Quantitative Literacy at WOU Survey Report
- Regular Reports
 - Interinstitutional Faculty Senate
 - Center for Academic Innovation
 - University Computing Services