

Staff Senate Minutes

March 7, 2023 (10:00am–11:30am)

Online Via Zoom

In-Attendance: Jenna Otto, Amanda Bales, Kelly Rush, Keats Chaves, Keegan Gormally, Adrian Trujillo, Michelle Gallagher, Michael Reis, Michael Gonzalez

Absent: Ambre Plahn, Jason Horne

Guests: President Peters, Wendi Mars, Chris Solario, Sheree Solario

Approval of minutes

- Minutes for February 21, 2023 approved

Guest Speaker

- President Peters
 - Actively searching for the Executive of HR, Director of Admissions, and Director of Marcom positions. Interviewed 3 people for the Board of Trustees Secretary position and looking to make an offer soon.
 - Accreditation visit will be happening in just a few weeks.
 - Legislative session is in full swing and our Director of Government Relations, Rico has gotten right to work. A lot of lobbying happening in regards to university support and \$1.05B which is about \$100M increase to what was given last year. This was not included in the Governor's Budget, so it will likely be added to the Co-Chair's budget which should be issued in about two weeks or so. The Governor's Budget did include \$15M for the "4 trues" and we are in talks with that office and the HECC about how to best use those funds. We do not know if we will even get those funds, but we are proceeding as if we might. If we do get this, it would be one-time funds and our portion would be about \$3.7M.
 - Today is Giving Day, we are getting some good traction on getting support for our students and university.
 - Judy Shepard came to WOU a few nights ago and gave a great talk. She is a great speaker and answered some great questions from community/audience members.
 - Q&A:
 - What sort of stakeholder process you have with bringing the BOT Secretary

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candidates. Who did they meet with on campus? Concerned with how much shared governance will be involved in the process.

- They did not have sessions with anyone outside of the search committee and the President.
- Unfortunately, the search committee does not include anyone from shared governance.
- What other job duties will this position hold? How much time will be spent with “special projects” and how much with the board? How much campus presence will this position hold?
 - They will hold an office here on campus and will focus on managing the way the board works, as well as leading projects across the campus and helping to deconstruct the silos that have been built over the years.
- Will one of their responsibilities include helping with the strategic plan?
 - Not necessarily, but that doesn’t mean they might not be involved. The Academic Affairs has a staff member in place that oversees this area. A lot of this will be a learning process as this is a brand-new position and we will learn and grow along the way.
- Regarding the HR Executive and your recent email regarding the current HR structure: Will the HR remain under the supervision of General Counsel, or will it revert back to you?
 - It will revert to the President. Carson is currently just the Interim until an Executive HR person has been hired.
- What do you see as the long-term legislative agenda?
 - One thing we are trying to accomplish is to make sure the legislative agenda is clear that the regional universities in Oregon are necessary and powerful in the state. We often get a bit lost in the shadows of the large universities. Hoping to help guide the conversations about how regional universities are funded. Short-term goals is making sure they understand how enrollment declines affect a small school.

Reports

- Committee Reports

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- Shared Governance
 - Talks about adding additional students, specifically a graduate student to the committee. No decisions have been made yet though. Students are concerned about IFC funding the cuts that will be happening there.
 - Discussions about the campus environment and campus dining have been affected by changes over the last few years. We used to have several campus dining options that were frequently used by not just students, but faculty and staff. Now, we don't really have these options available and how it affects the vibrancy on campus.
- Cabinet
 - Talked about CIR – funds that are spent on campus improvements. These funds come from the legislature. Focus for these funds will be used on infrastructure/structural improvements on our buildings.
 - Talked about social media and a need to have best practices. We are finding more and more groups that use social media for their individual areas, but we do not have a uniform way to utilize these platforms.
 - Talked about messaging and how we will send out notification in the event of tragic events. Students may prefer to hear from their faculty/advisors, etc. directly rather than to see a blanket response from the President. Possibly via one on one direct rather than through email. Concerns from some that if we do away with campus wide announcements/conversations then others who may be affected by the incident will not have support.
- University Council - No meeting
- Other - Administrative Equity, Staff Connections, Scholarship, etc.
 - Staff Connections will be changing their newsletter to quarterly rather than monthly.
 - Scholarships – We are not holding a fundraiser this year. Moving forward with reviewing applications in the spring term.

Unfinished Business

- Committee Needs
 - UBAC - 2 Classified Staff

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- WUC Advisory Committee
- Scholarship Review - If you are interested in reviewing scholarship applications, please contact Ambre Plahn. So far, we have 3 members so we may be okay, but more are welcome.

- Senate Vacancies
 - Unclassified – had 7 nominations. Need to determine whether we can vote within the Senate directly or if we have to do a campus wide vote. More information to come.
- HRO 917 usage - Presentation from HR on March 7
 - In preparation for this presentation, it would be good to know who the budget authority is and who oversees the application process.
- Reminder of upcoming elections
 - Executive
 - “General” Senate seats
- Performance Evaluations & Training
 - On hold
- Use of Direct Appointments
 - On hold
- Search Committee processes
 - On hold
- Fundraiser Raffle
 - On Hold

New Business

- Moving forward with HR related “On Hold” items

Announcements

- Agenda item suggestions
- Kudos/Recognition
- Public Comments - Anything for the good of the order?



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Adjourn

Upcoming

- Mar 21, 2023