



**Western Oregon University Board of Trustees:  
Academic & Student Affairs Committee**

**Meeting No. 31 – May 31, 2023**

**2:45pm-4:00pm**

**Minutes**

**I. CALL-TO-MEETING AND ROLL CALL**

Chair Mitchell calls the meeting of the Academic & Student Affairs Committee to order at 2:45pm on Wednesday May 31, 2023. Chair Mitchell asked Secretary Sorce to call the roll.

**Committee members present:** David Foster, Betty Komp, Cristian Mendez-Garcia, Leah Mitchell, Kari Nelsestuen. Quorum is Present.

**Others Present:** Chelle Batchelor, Kathy Cassity, Keats Chaves, Amy Clark, Hillary Fouts, Tina Fuchs, Roseanna Garcia, Mark Girod, Paige Jackson, Margaret Manoogian, Sue Monahan, Jessica Murfin, Sean Roush, Judy Sylva, Rob Winningham

**II. COMMITTEE CHAIR'S WELCOME**

Chair Mitchell welcomes everyone to the meeting and thanks them all for being there.

**III. CONSENT AGENDA**

[Meeting Minutes: March 22, 2023](#)

Trustee Nelsestuen moved the approval of the March 22, 2023 meeting minutes, and Trustee Mendez-Garcia seconded the motion. The following Trustees voted in support of the motion. David Foster, Betty Komp, Cristian Mendez-Garcia, Leah Mitchell, Kari Nelsestuen. The motion passed unanimously with no changes.

**IV. ACTION ITEMS:**

1) **Academic proposals:**

- a) [Undergraduate Certificate in ASL Beginner](#) | Dr. Kara Gournaris, Assistant Professor, Deaf Studies & Professional Studies
- b) [Undergraduate Certificate in ASL Intermediate](#) | Dr. Kara Gournaris, Assistant Professor, Deaf Studies & Professional Studies

Dr. Kara Gournaris presented the academic proposals for Undergraduate Certificates in ASL Beginner and ASL Intermediate. Both proposals are available in the docket for review. Dr. Gournaris added in her presentation that both certificates will be offered at WOU Salem. These programs are designed for community members, first responders, and law enforcement to better respond to the needs of the Deaf community. ASL 101-103 and ASL 201-203 will all be offered at WOU Salem. These certificates will be the first of its kind regionally. Provost Winningham

emphasized that all the classes that are part of this certificate are already offered, and students can already sign up to take them.

Although the presentation and discussion of the certificates were done together, Chair Mitchell decided that for the purposes of approval, the committee should consider each certificate separately.

Trustee Foster moves to approve the creation of an Undergraduate Certificate in ASL Beginner. Trustee Mendez-Garcia seconds the motion. The following Trustees voted in favor of the motion. David Foster, Betty Komp, Cristian Mendez-Garcia, Leah Mitchell, Kari Nelsestuen. The motion passed unanimously.

Trustee Foster moves to approve the creation of an Undergraduate Certificate in ASL Intermediate. Trustee Nelsestuen seconds the motion. The following Trustees voted in favor of the motion. David Foster, Betty Komp, Cristian Mendez-Garcia, Leah Mitchell, Kari Nelsestuen. The motion passed unanimously.

## **REPORTS & DISCUSSION ITEMS:**

### **1) Showcase & Discussion: [Retention: Wolfie Chat Bot](#)**

Vice President for Student Affairs Tina Fuchs presented the Wolfie AI Chatbot presentation that is available in the docket for review. Trustee Foster asked if Graduate Students are included in the list of students that are communicated with using the Wolfie Chatbot. VP Fuchs responded that only undergraduate students. Trustee Foster asked who owns the data that this generates. VP Fuchs and Paige Jackson both state that the University owns the data. Trustee Komp encouraged staff to share this data for Institutional Research to analyze the data.

### **2) [Student Affairs Update](#) | *Vice President Tina Fuchs***

VP Fuchs presented the Student Affairs Update. The report is available in the docket for review.

### **3) [Academic Affairs Update](#) | *Provost Rob Winningham***

Provost Winningham presented the Academic Affairs Update. The report is available in the docket for the review.

## **V. ADJOURNMENT**

Trustee Mitchell adjourns the at 4:04pm