

Staff Senate Minutes

February 20, 2024 (2:00pm–3:30pm)

Online Via Zoom

Start recording - Staff Senate follows Simplified Robert's Rules

- Meeting recordings only accessible to Senators
- Zoom meeting - <https://wou-edu.zoom.us/j/85780295099>

In-Attendance: Adrian Trujillo, Ambre Plahn, Jenna Otto, Jason Horne, Noah Carillo, Keats Chaves, Rip Horsey, Jane Cameron-Jensen, Kristen Perry,

Absent: Crystal Ross, Alexis Morrison, Pam Flippo

Guests: Dave Beasley, Wendi Mars, Amanda Bales, Heather Brophy,

Approval of minutes

- February 6 Minutes approved.

Guest Speakers

- Dave Beasley, WOU Foundation
 - Giving Day is two weeks from today, so things are starting to ramp up. The giving page is givingday.wou.edu and there are several different fund types that folks can choose from to donate to. Towards the bottom of the page, you will see a link for the Staff for Students Scholarship.
 - What is Giving Day? An opportunity for all members of the WOU community to give back to programs they are passionate about. We send out about 37,000 post cards in the mail reminding folks about this program.
 - The Foundation is doing everything in their power to get the word about to everyone within their contacts. There is a push going out to the general WOU page (<https://givingday.wou.edu/pages/social-media-impact>), but we also have a unique page just for our campaign (<https://givingday.wou.edu/campaigns/staff-senate-scholarship-2>). It would be great for all of us to really push this website out to our own communities.
 - Question about the name of the campaign on the website: Do we like the name as is “Staff Senate Scholarship” or do we want to change it? The actual scholarship is called the Staff for Students Scholarship, and most folks would

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prefer to keep the name consistent across the board.

- There used to be a monthly payroll deduction that staff could elect to participate in, is that still happening? Yes, you can still donate \$5 per month, but if you choose to do it on Giving Day through the website it will be a monthly credit card payment OR you can choose to go through human resources to set up a recurring payroll deduction.
- Thank you to all for helping with Giving Day and making an impact on the students here at WOU!

Reports

- Committee Reports
 - Shared Governance – No update
 - President's Cabinet
 - Most of the discussions were around the Comprehensive Campaign. The presentation for this is saved in our Staff Senate Shared Drive in the Correspondence and Notes folder. The PDF is named President Cabinet 2-7. If you can look at that, please do.
 - Dominique and Evan are looking to create a Freedom of Expression & Civic Discord space for students. They will create a very small group that will consist of two faculty from the Sociology/Political Science divisions to help brainstorm different methods on how to start a Free of Expression & Civic Discord for students. Their main goal is to have a website with this information by the end of the school year and will be like those included in the attachment shared in our Staff Senate Drive.
 - A student reached out to several departments on campus about the need for an interfaith space for folks on campus. They currently have a space in APSC offered by the Office of International Education and Development. However, it is a small cubicle that does not have full 4 walls and a door. It is also quite small, so it limits the number of folks that can use it concurrently. Also, there is an issue with availability. Currently, they can only access the space M-F between 8:00am – 5:00pm, so finding a space that can not only have a fully enclosed room but is available during the evening/weekend is a huge need. If you have any ideas on

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locations, please pass that along. Several ideas were to investigate the WUC as an option after the new Student Success Center is open as there will be a lot of folks moving into that building.

- At the November fireside chat with President Peters, Vice President of Student Affairs Tina Fuchs, and Executive Director of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Dominique Vargas students brought forward a draft of a proposal for a Dream Center. The students each talked to Dr. Peters, Tina, and Dominique. Dominique told the students she would research what we have available at Western so far and what the other public universities have available, and that she would compile a list and share it with the students. Dominique reached out to her counterparts at the six other public universities and compiled a document of resources and she shared with the students and senior leadership. In the short-term Western is considering how we might partner with other institutions and organizations in our region to help with serving our students. The Director of Government Relations Rico Lujan Valerio is sourcing potential opportunities to initiate support. Long-term we are considering space utilization and resource center development and sustainability. Pet Policy was discussed but nothing has been done. The plan is to revisit the animal control policy. Once a draft is available, it will be sent to the Staff Senate for review.
- University Council – No update
- Other - Administrative Equity, Staff Connections, Scholarship, etc.
 - UBAC – working to put a survey together for faculty/staff/students about budgetary issues and things that are important to the campus in terms of how budgets are created and where the money goes to. No timeline on when this will come out, but they are working on it.
 - Staff Connections – planning an event on Feb. 29 at 12:00pm BYOL event. It will be a lunchtime trivia event and the theme are Leap Year. Location TBD.
 - WUC Committee – the IFC budget is currently being evaluated and there will be three hearings that students can attend to provide their feedback. After these h
 - Willamette Room policy update – currently this space is only available to student groups/student facing offices. They are looking to revise this policy effective spring term. Discussions also regarding the number of

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times this committee meets. Currently, they meet three times per year, which doesn't seem to be sufficient to get things done. There was a recommendation to meet twice per term.

- President Report – No update

Unfinished Business

- Performance Evaluations & Training
 - On hold
- Use of Direct Appointments
 - On hold
- Search Committee processes
 - On hold
- “Suggestion Box”
 - On hold

New Business

- Staff Senate Elections
 - Several senators are approaching the end of their terms this June. Now is the time to start thinking about who you would like to nominate to serve on Staff Senate or if you want to nominate yourself again that would be great!
 - We will need to fill 3 unclassified positions and 3 classified spots. If you are not sure if your spot it up or not, check out the list on our staff senate shared drive in the Resources and Reference folder.

Announcements

- Agenda item suggestions
- Kudos/Recognition – February Staff member of the month is Crystal Talitonu....YAY!!!!
 - Adrian used a different method to announce the monthly winner and they used the MarCom announcement. It would go out in their newsletter on the last Monday of the month. Do we like this format, or would we prefer to use our old method?
 - We will continue with this new method and if later down the road we want to go back to sending out our own campus-wide email we can.
- Public Comments - Anything for the good of the order?



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Adjourn

Upcoming

- Next meeting March 5, 2024