



Board Resolution on Shared Governance at Western Oregon University

The Western Oregon University Board of Trustees (“Board”) concludes as follows:

1. Recitals.

a. The establishment of separate, institutional governing boards for each of Oregon’s public universities, including Western Oregon University (“University” or “WOU”) is a profound opportunity for the success of students.

b. The authority of the Board and President may be informed and improved by the purposeful engagement with the University’s stakeholders—including its faculty, staff, and students.

c. The concept of shared governance in an academic environment is expected and appreciated.

d. The Board is much closer to the affairs of the University than previous governing boards.

e. A statement affirming the principles of shared governance is a critical step in the success of the University, building trust among University stakeholders and demonstrating a commitment to open deliberation and decision-making.

2. Principles and Values.

The Board is committed to shared governance in the academic environment and embraces the following principles and values to guide the effective and efficient governance and administration of the University:

a. Frank communication

b. Open deliberation and decision-making

c. Consistent reflection upon the University’s mission statement and strategic plan.

d. Recognition by all University stakeholders of roles and their responsibilities in the efficient governance and administration of the University.

e. Mutual trust and respect among all University stakeholders.

2. Definition.

Shared governance is defined as appropriately shared responsibility and cooperative action among the Board, administrators, faculty, staff and students and, as applicable, their duly-constituted representative bodies, intended to foster constructive and collaborative thought and action within the institutional structure in service of the University's mission.

3. Roles, Responsibilities and Representation.

a. Board

The Board is vested with the ultimate authority to manage the affairs of the University under Oregon law and applicable Board Statements and actions, including, the Board Statement on Delegation of Authority. The Board should receive and consider input and advice from University stakeholders, as articulated in this resolution, either through the President or directly to the Board through processes and channels established by the Board.

The Board, in its Bylaws and Board Statement on Committees, authorizes the creation of ad hoc committees to address specific topics from time to time. As appropriate, duly-elected or appointed representatives of the Faculty Senate, Staff Senate, or Associated Students of Western Oregon University (ASWOU) will be asked to participate in these ad hoc committees to provide their expertise and perspective.

b. President, Officers, and Administrators

The President, as the University's chief executive officer and president of the faculty, is responsible for directing the affairs of the University, provided the President's actions are consistent with law and Statements and actions of the Board, including, the Board Statement on Delegation of Authority. The President, officers, and administrators have as a primary responsibility the duty to promote collaboration and to encourage faculty and staff in the performance of their duties related to teaching, learning, student and institutional support, professional development, scholarly work and research, and community service.

The President has primary responsibility for communicating with and making recommendations to the Board. The Board expects the President, as appropriate, to provide meaningful opportunity for duly-elected or appointed representatives of the Faculty Senate, Staff Senate, or ASWOU, to offer input and advice on the President's recommendations. This includes, but is not limited to the President's recommendations concerning the University's budget, tuition and fee schedule, strategic plan, and mission statement.

The President also has primary authority for the approval of University Policies that define the expectations or requirements for University units and functions, as outlined in the Board Statement on Policies. The Board expects duly-elected or appointed representatives of the Faculty Senate, Staff Senate, and ASWOU to

participate in the University's Policy Council in order to offer input and advice on University policies.

c. Faculty Senate

The Board recognizes the faculty's central role in the development and stewardship of the University's academic mission, consistent with Oregon law and the Board Statement on Delegation of Authority. This includes responsibility, in conjunction with the President and the Provost, for (i) academic standards relating to admission to study at the University, (ii) curriculum, curricular materials, method of instruction, grading, credits, and academic standards of the University, and (iii) standards of student competence in a discipline. The Board also expects that the faculty will have substantial participation and input into the development of new academic degree programs and significant changes to academic degree programs before they reach the Board for consideration and approval and, as appropriate, transmission to the Higher Education Coordinating Commission for approval.

The Board recognizes the Faculty Senate as the internal representative body of the faculty. In order to set forth its internal processes for participating in shared governance, the WOU Faculty Senate is authorized, consistent with law and the Statements and actions of the Board, to formulate a statement of internal governance expressed as a constitution or in another appropriate format. The statement of internal governance must be consistent with applicable law and the Statements and actions of the Board and is subject to approval by the President in his or her role as president of the faculty. The President convenes and presides over the faculty and is authorized to veto any decision of the Faculty Senate. Notwithstanding the President's statutory role as the president of the faculty, the faculty's statement of internal governance may provide for a member of the faculty to serve as the Faculty Senate's president or chair. The statement of internal governance is subject to amendment by the Board after notice to and consultation with the President and the Faculty Senate. Subject to the approval of the President, the statement of internal governance may also be amended as provided for in the statement of internal governance statement, but no more often than annually.

d. Staff Senate

The Board recognizes the WOU Staff Senate as the internal representative body of the WOU staff. In order to set forth its internal processes for participating in shared governance, the WOU Staff Senate is authorized, consistent with law and the Statements and actions of the Board, to formulate a statement of internal governance expressed as a constitution or in another appropriate format. The statement of internal governance must be consistent with applicable law and the Statements and actions of the Board.

e. Associated Students of Western Oregon University

The Board recognizes the ASWOU as the recognized student government. In order to set forth its internal processes for participating in shared governance, the ASWOU is authorized, consistent with law and the Statements and actions of the Board, to formulate a statement of internal governance expressed as a constitution or in

another appropriate format. The statement of internal governance must be consistent with applicable law and the Statements and actions of the Board.

4. Communication.

a. The Board will, consistent with its Board Statement on the Conduct of Public Meetings, reserve specific time for one duly-elected representative from each of the Faculty Senate, Staff Senate, and the ASWOU to address the Board on any matter of concern facing the faculty, staff, or students respectively.

b. As appropriate, the Board will include duly-elected representatives of the Faculty Senate, Staff Senate, and ASWOU in any work retreat by the Board.

c. The Board expects the University's President to meet with the duly-elected chair or president of the Faculty Senate, Staff Senate, and ASWOU regularly, but preferably at least monthly, to ensure open communication and prompt discussion and consideration of matters of concern.

5. Performance Evaluation.

In evaluating the job performance of the President, the Board will consider the President's commitment to shared governance as described in this Board resolution.