



Oregon
University
System

Memo

To: WOU Faculty, Staff, Students, and Community Members
From: Henry Lorenzen, President, State Board of Higher Education
CC: George Pernsteiner, Acting Chancellor
Date: August 24, 2005
Re: Selection of Interim President for WOU

Dear Colleagues:

We are pleased to announce that the selection process for an interim President for Western Oregon University was completed today. OUS Acting Chancellor George Pernsteiner and a special committee of the State Board of Higher Education considered several individuals and today voted to recommend Dr. John Minahan to be Interim President of WOU during a public meeting. After the special committee meeting, Dr. Minahan met with the full Board and the Board approved his appointment.

The Board anticipates that the appointment of the interim President will be short-term, approximately one to two years. This will give the Board an opportunity to review the leadership needs of WOU, hear from stakeholders, and begin the process of determining permanent leadership for the campus.

Congratulations to Dr. John Minahan and the WOU community. The Board is proud of the excellence in teaching and scholarship that WOU has achieved and which defines it as a top learning community in Oregon. We appreciate your support and patience during this transition period, and wish you all a successful and productive 2005-06 academic year.



News Release

August 24, 2005

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Dr. John Minahan Named WOU Interim President

AUGUST 24, PORTLAND – The Oregon State Board of Higher Education today appointed Dr. John P. Minahan interim president of Western Oregon University. Before his recent retirement, Dr. Minahan served Western Oregon University as Provost from 1998 to 2004.

Minahan succeeds Dr. Philip Conn, who announced his retirement as WOU President in March and will leave the university at the end of August after three years of dedicated service. His appointment is expected to last one to two years, according to Henry Lorenzen, president of the Oregon State Board of Higher Education. The board will make a determination on the next steps for permanent leadership of WOU over the next several months.

"Western Oregon University has a long history of having a student-centered approach to learning through its strong faculty and supportive environment," said George Pernsteiner, acting chancellor of the Oregon University System. "The entire campus community is vested in sustaining the momentum in excellent programs and teaching research that serve both the campus and the broader communities in western Oregon and the Willamette Valley. Dr. Minahan can provide the leadership needed to do this, and ensure a stable, fully working campus until permanent leadership is in place."

Dr. Minahan, in addition to his previous service at Western Oregon University, has held academic leadership positions at Xavier University, the University of North Florida, and the State University of New York College at Buffalo. Dr. Minahan received his B.A. in Philosophy from Canisius College and his Ph.D. in Philosophy from Georgetown University in Washington DC. He joined WOU in 1986, serving as Dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences and Professor of Philosophy, before assuming his duties as Provost in 1998.

"It is a privilege for the Board to entrust Western's interim presidency to me," said Dr. Minahan. "It is time for the Western community to come together and prepare to welcome students, faculty, and staff back to campus for the new academic year."

WOU, located in Monmouth, Oregon, is steadily emerging as a leading comprehensive public liberal arts institution. Founded in 1856, and the oldest OUS institution, WOU has an enrollment of about 4,500 undergraduates and 400 graduate students. Home to the nationally renowned Teaching Research Institution, WOU's faculty is engaged in wide-ranging scholarship as well as community-based projects and faculty-student collaborations.

Oregon University System (OUS) comprises seven distinguished public universities, reaching more than one million people each year through on-campus classes, statewide public services and lifelong learning. The Oregon State Board of Higher Education, the statutory governing board of OUS, is composed of eleven members appointed by the Governor and confirmed by the Oregon State Senate. For additional information, go to www.ous.edu

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