



Western Oregon University Board of Trustees:
Academic & Student Affairs Committee
Meeting No. 23 – November 2, 2021
3:00pm – 5:00pm

MEETING MINUTES

I. CALL-TO-MEETING AND ROLL CALL

Committee members: Jaime Arredondo, Danielle Campbell, Susan Castillo, Malissa Larson; Late: Linda Herrera

Others present: Mike Baltzley, Chelle Batchelor, Kathy Cassity, Keats Chaves, Gary Dukes, Breeann Flesch, Mark Girod, Anna Hernandez-Hunter, Ian Hunt, Jay Kenton, Sue Monahan, Michael Reis, Kelly Rush, Devin Thongdy, LouAnn Vickers, Rob Winningham; Late: Gwenonwyn Knoop, Makana Ripley, Kevin Thibeault, Trina Horsey

II. COMMITTEE CHAIR'S WELCOME

Chair Arredondo called the meeting to order at 3:01pm and gave a brief welcome message in recognition of Dia de los Muertos before quickly handing the meeting off to Dr. Breeann Flesch.

III. CONSENT AGENDA

There were no consent items to discuss.

IV. ACTION ITEMS:

1) Proposal for new degrees:

a. Bachelor of Science and Bachelor of Applied Science in Data Analytics

Dr. Flesch shared the rationale for a new program in data analytics. WOU's program would be going through a liberal arts pathway, rather than being an engineering degree, and would be focused more on data analytics than data science. Dr. Flesch shared the proposed curriculum. WOU is working closely with Chemeketa to develop a transfer pathway that will work for all four-year institutions. The program will require 90 credits at WOU for graduation in four years.

Trustee Castillo asked the question of what the timeline would be for working with the transfer pathway, and when that would be completed. Breeann replied that the program will be implemented in the near future; WOU is working closely with Chemeketa to develop a data class that will be offered next fall. Most of the classes proposed are already being offered at institutions. Reaching out and advising at the community college level. WOU will have the classes on the books Fall 2022.

Dr. Winningham added that anyone transferring into WOU with a 90-credit transfer degree will finish the program in two years of study at WOU. Bachelor of



Applied Science will finish in two years for students incoming with terminal Information Science associates degrees.

Trustee Castillo moved to approve the proposal; Trustee Larson seconded the motion. Motion carries.

V. REPORT & DISCUSSION ITEMS:

1) Student Affairs Update | [Vice President Report](#)

Dr. Dukes on COVID. Recruitment and retention will be the focus on the next Board meeting showcase. Still finding challenges on physically getting into high schools; schools are more adept to Zoom meetings with counselors, providing more opportunities for recruiters; WOU has stronger contact in classrooms. WOU has set numbers for staff for enrollment goals for 2022 and will continue to brainstorm on recruitment; group meets weekly. Discussing remissions and caps associated with remissions; wanting to remove or raise the current cap on remissions. Will include students in the Bilingual Teachers program and graduate students as part of that process.

WOU has purchased a couple programs, one to help identify and best use financial aid to get students to enroll based on demographics, and one to look at adult learners at under/grad levels. WOU continues to increase marketing and advertising and has been receiving positive feedback on billboards. WOU is working to better align financial aid, scholarship, and housing communication processes to get information out in a timely manner after students are admitted.

The Cesar Chavez Leadership Conference is being broken up into two different conferences for 2021-22, one for seniors in the fall (capped at 500 attendees), one for non-seniors in the spring (capped at 500 attendees). WOU retains contact information for students to continue follow ups with students who attend.

Dream.us provides scholarship funds for undocumented students to attend WOU. Four people involved: Adrian Trujillo, Itsel Venegas-Trujillo, Anel Venegas-Trujillo, Travis Heide. Fifty students are participating; WOU is currently the only Oregon university participating.

Comment on SHCC: students are trying to meet in person with counsellors. Housing/Dining: more students living on campus than last year; expecting numbers to hold, unlike last year. Upward Bound/Trio rewriting to get their grant back; should know this summer.

Standardized testing on hold/schools not requiring testing for admission is causing WOU to need to look at other metrics to determine need for the new grant. The Veterans Resource Center is applying for a new grant; of the



\$100,000 they expect to receive, \$35k goes to off-set the cost of the director, the other funds go to programming for the Center. The Childcare Center is up and running and has been able to receive federal funds to help students with children at the childcare center.

2) Academic Affairs Update | [Vice President Report](#)

Dr. Winningham provided a report for Academic Affairs.

WOU: Salem will have more classes offered for Winter term, still ahead of business plan from a couple years ago.

Willamette Promise brought 30 students from around the region to the WOU campus in an effort to work on WOU pipeline and community building relationships and to get students on campus. Graduate enrollment is down a little compared to 2020, but we are expecting an uptick in enrollment in winter term. New graduate programs coming online including an MS Justice Studies, anticipating having two large cohorts (40 students) in the fall; two new Organizational Leadership Certificates; and the Accelerated Undergraduate to Master's Pathway

The Sponsored Projects Office (SPO) helped submit 68 external funding proposals, 41 of which were accepted. WOU will employ hundreds of substitute teachers through an \$8 million grant through Oregon Department of Education to fund the Child Substitute Teacher Program. SPO has implemented the new Distribution of Indirect Cost Recovery Policy.

Library and Academic Innovation is responsible for the success of online learning. OER (Open Educational Resources) program has saved students approx. \$840,000, getting closer to being the most affordable university in Oregon.

The Registrar's Office is following up with previous students who could have graduated under WOU's current curriculum requirements, as opposed to the requirements in place during their time at WOU. Degrees have been awarded to 28 undergraduate students through this initiative. Student Success and Advising is working on the Degree Completion project, using state grant money to employ two limited duration staff to contact students who have dropped out since the beginning of the pandemic; 92 students have re-enrolled through this project. Advisors have set up a system with the Business Office to utilize federal funds to pay off accounts receivable so students can enroll.

College of Education partnered with Admissions Office staff to host 30 high school students from Clatsop County in partnership with Clatsop Community College.



The DeafBlind Interpreting National Training & Resource Center received a \$2.1M grant from the Department of Education Rehabilitation Services for enhancing services, access, and communication norms.

College of Liberal Arts & Sciences faculty and staff have recently garnered several achievements and accomplishments, including the publication of the second anthology of first-year student writing.

The recently hired partnership program is meant to “grow and strengthen WOU’s opportunities and ability to provide fiscally productive educational programs and experiences for external partners.” This program provides professional and workplace development pathways for state employees and helps state government retain employees. WOU is also offering not-for-credit partnerships and workshops, including workshops in January related to racial healing and understanding, and a partnership with school districts to provide training for the substitute teacher program to provide emergency licensure for individuals who do not have degrees.

Academic Affairs partnered with MarCom to market academic programs aimed at niche audiences; thirteen grants between \$1600 - 8000 were awarded to engage in marketing efforts that had a high probability of bringing new students to WOU from these niche communities.

VI. SHOWCASE: Lessons Learned: What Worked and What Didn’t

WOU did a survey of 1,000 students in October 2021, looking for information on course modality preference. Dr. Mike Baltzley, Associate Provost of Academic Effectiveness, presented the results of the survey. Undergraduates largely wanted in-person courses (27% of >1k students), graduate students largely wanted online a/synchronous (37% wanting asynchronous), and new students had preference for in-person courses. Survey found that students generally agree that they benefited from having required reading available online.

Dr. Baltzley presented feedback from students who were unable to attend the Committee meeting. Grad student Andrea Morgan believes all courses/work should be accessible through Canvas to make classes more accessible to students and to prevent learning disruptions due to inclement weather or further pandemics. Undergrad McKenzie McHuron-Guss believes there should be a tuition decrease for online asynchronous classes and stated that the amount of schoolwork increased under an online-only modality. McKenzie described having had a hard time making study groups in online-only classes and relying a lot on the professor for help.



Dr. Baltzley then passed the meeting off to the student presenters in attendance. Student Lorena Soriano felt that they had received really good instruction and that online classes helped for commuting but was not sure what was available in person. She had trouble with one professor who would not answer email, and didn't reply/make announcements for Canvas, exams, etc. She stated that she was worried about there not being enough resources on campus and prefers online classes for next year.

Grad student Trina had mixed feelings about classes, being a nontraditional student. While online classes offer flexibility, she needs person-to-person contact and thinks their Organizational Leadership program works better in person. Trina stated some professors have been agile and accommodating and utilized Zoom to its full advantage to make online classes feel like a real classroom.

Student Gwenonwyn stated online school was nice because it was better to maintain a job at the same time as attending school. She is now commuting to Monmouth, with a practicum near Gresham, and is hoping for more online classes for the Education program, Gwen agreed with Trina that professors facilitating the online learning experience made it feel like an in-person classroom.

Dr. Baltzley then turned the floor over to the committee for discussion.

Trustee Castillo asked ASWOU Vice President Thongdy if ASWOU found it surprising, what the survey says. Thongdy responded that they were not surprised that students want to go back online because they're adjusted to that modality. As students have back to in-person learning, they can see the division between those who wanted to come back to in-person and those who were adjusted to online. He stated they are not surprised some professors are resistant to accessibility due to the amount of work and effort needed to upload assignments. Thongdy also stated that this mindset is an accessibility issue in general, as the lack of both online and in-person options limits students from succeeding.

Trustee Larson asked Dr. Baltzley how discipline/major affected the in-person/online division. Dr. Baltzley responded that students did provide their major on the survey, and that each division was provided their own data from the surveys; however, the survey results, in general, weren't broken down into majors because varying sample sizes can skew the data. Divisions did receive data on majors if they asked for it.

ASWOU VP Thongdy asked, if there was to be another survey, were there plans to look into financial data (e.g., how higher course fees for online courses affect student decisions). Provost Winningham replied that the survey was specifically



designed to get information for Winter term, so the survey was limited due to time constraints. Provost Wunningham acknowledged that online courses have additional fees due to infrastructure and personnel costs and suggested that students get involved in the finance committee for setting tuition and fees for the next academic year.

Chair Arredondo asked how many students were taking online courses pre-Covid. Provost Wunningham responded 15-20%, though Psychology and CJS have fully online pathways, and General Education is heading towards having a fully online pathway by March 2022.

The committee posed further questions about online courses, including questions about the need for transparency with increased fees for online courses, accessibility, and the best ways to report findings and decisions to the campus community. The committee also acknowledged the need for staff and faculty feedback and representation in further implementation.

Student Makana Ripley noted the importance of publicly acknowledging that decisions around course modality changes and increased fees are difficult decisions to be made. She suggested a need for setting up a specific space, office, or person that could receive student feedback and add a human aspect to feedback reception.

Provost Wunningham noted that each course will need to have modality decisions made separately, and each department will need to decide the viability of online pathways for certain programs. Provost Wunningham then highlighted that all comments and feedback about course modality will need to go through the faculty, as concerns about online resources and accessibility are ultimately up to faculty decisions/behavior. Provost Wunningham stated that the potential next steps are multifaceted: College deans would need to have conversations with the division chairs, presentations would need to be made to Faculty Senate, and a Zoom session would need to be held for the entire campus community to share the necessary data.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

Trustee Arredondo adjourned the meeting at 4:54pm.