

Date: January 18, 2018

Request to Faculty Senate Executive Committee

Establish protocol for transfer agreements

-As soon as the transfer agreement discussions begin, the WOU faculty/administrator informs in writing the departments whose classes will be involved.

-A faculty meeting of appropriate members will be convened to discuss the transfer agreement proposal.

-If the agreement is approved by the faculty involved, it is routed to the divisions and both deans. This can be done similarly to the way curriculum proposals are routed.

Reaffirm faculty right to be involved in all curricular decisions

In all transfer agreements, department and division heads whose classes are involved must be consulted—and their signatures must be included on the transfer agreement document.

WOU will not enter into an agreement with other institutions if the agreement does not follow the Senate-approved protocol.

Rationale for Proposal

The increased emphasis on transfer students will inevitably result in more transfer agreements especially because of the university and legislative focus on creating seamless pathways between community colleges and universities. Frequently, these pathways result in transfer agreements between institutions: Transfer agreements ‘guarantee’ that we will accept courses from other institutions as equivalent to WOU courses; this decision is based on three considerations: is the bulk of the course similar? Are the learning outcomes comparable? If the course to be transferred is foundational, do we believe the students will be ready to take UD courses?

Considering the critical role that faculty play in the decision, it is important to ensure that all affected faculty and programs be included in the process. Currently, there is no clear process and protocol to ensure this, as evident from the recent transfer agreement between WOU and Chemeketa for ASL which includes a Linguistics course but no Linguistics notice or signature. Establishing a clear protocol ensures that the process for transfer agreements begins with the faculty and is a process transparent for all involved.