

- **WOU advising office opened on Chemeketa Lancaster campus** – Kristin Mauro our transfer specialist and Darlene Fritz, education advisor now are spending time on the Chemeketa campus each week. The WOU office is located in Building 1, Rm 115. Any WOU faculty staff may “hang out” at the office.
- **University catalog moving to web-based format** – In late December the University signed a contract to use *Acalog* software for generation of the upcoming university catalog. Registrar Amy Clark is taking the lead in this multi-office endeavor (UCS, Marketing & Communications). Our principle catalog will be a web document; an abbreviated version will be printable.
- **HECC Commissioners and Willamette Promise** – The December 14, 2017 HECC commissioners meeting, commissioners were very engaged in discussing the issue we’ve been having with OSU accepting WP credits. More robust engagement between OSU faculty and our WP faculty will occur. My thanks to our faculty who are pulling out all stops to be supportive to their OSU colleagues in this process. The Commission asked for an update of progress made since Dec. 14 to be given at the January 11 Commissioners meeting.
- **HECC University Evaluation Report** – The HECC Commissioners will receive a university evaluation report on the status of WOU. I encourage faculty to take a look at this report. It is in the January 9, 2018 docket materials for the HECC.
- **Designation of classes with no- or low-cost textbooks** – (HB2971 on textbook affordability - 2015 session) – This bill provides funding to kick start open resource development amount the public colleges and universities. It also requires that all public universities clearly designate no- or low-cost courses. We will need to survey divisions each term for what courses should have a designation of no- or low-cost.
- **HB2998 need for academic specialists** – Part of the operational plan for fulfilling HB2998 is to develop transfer articulation guidance for high-demand majors; the first four being business, teacher education & and professional development, biology, English language & literature. Each public university will be asked to identify a faculty member in each of these four areas.
- **Sabbatical application** – Currently compiling and reviewing sabbatical applications...looking for ways to make roll over sabbatical leaves (years 2 or 3 of existing sabbatical leaves) and new leave requests hit a cost neutral outcome.
- **Provost town hall meeting this Friday** – An all fac/staff notice went out that Friday, I’ll spend time talking with faculty/staff about the academic affairs budget and how it is being developed. All welcome. ITC 211 3-4:30 PM.

- **Closing comment – inclement weather:** Best to all of you with the new term. Again, as at the end of fall term, do encourage your students to stay informed about inclement weather delayed openings, etc. on the university homepage.