

Questions about the DPT Program proposal.

These questions were sent to President Fuller, Provost Winningham,,VP Ana Karaman and Associate VP Dave McDonald. Here are the responses.

Where will the startup 2 million come from? (Response from President Fuller)

The budget estimates zero expenditures in 2019-20, \$319K in 2020-21 and \$1.34M in 2021-22, after that we are very much revenue positive moving forward. Once we have program approval, the request for funding would be part of the budget process and UBAC will have an opportunity to provide its assessment and recommendation. This same process was used in the discussion last year around the Salem initiative. The initial investment could come from a number of places. The most likely would be new initiative budget planning, and university reserves. The DPT model also shows that it would generate positive balances after full implementation.

Additionally, once the DPT program is approved, we can be more aggressive seeking donations to support the development of the program. We will likely give donors the ability to choose how their gift is used, but we have always been mindful that donations could offset significant portions of the startup costs. The above amount that is not donated could be borrowed from reserves until those funds can be replenished in 2022-23 and beyond. Based on the model, without any gifts for startup costs, we would pay back all the startup costs by around the end of the 2023 calendar year.

In summary, we anticipate submitting a budget proposal to UBAC for the 2019-20 expenditures.

What is plan B if capital construction and donations do not produce the funding for a building? (Response from President Fuller)

We will be working the legislative process this year in advance of a capital request in the 2021-23 biennium. WOU will also vigorously pursue outside donations and support, once we have campus and state level program approval. We are hopeful that the health care community will support this program, as it will directly impact their ability to attract DPTs and increase their capacity to care for patients. Of course, we will also pursue capital constructions dollars from the state. WOU has the option to go after outside funding by going to the bond market, similar to how we get funding to build new dormitories. A final idea includes the possibility of exploring a bank loan to pay for part of the building, given the low interest rates and the projected revenues.

In closing, I hope faculty see that such a prudent investment holds the promise of significant enrollment growth and it also affords the campus an opportunity to generate tuition revenue that greatly exceeds our cost, and these funds can be used to support all of our educational efforts.

UO, OSU and PSU all have pre DPT undergraduate programs. The question is, if DPT is so profitable and do-able, how come the big three have not jumped at this? (Response from Dave McDonald)

Pre PT programs and Pre-OT programs are offered at many colleges and universities just as Pre-Med and Pre-law programs abound. So it would not surprise me that the three larger schools offer those programs. WOU also offers those.

The economics of the programs like the DPT changed greatly with the development and implementation of the SSCM (outcomes model) by HECC. Before the SSCM schools only received tuition and some student credit hour funds from OUS. Now 60% of the total state allocation through HECC is driven by the SSCM. I do not know if any of the other campuses have taken the step to price out prospective programs using all the SSCM factors it is a fairly drawn out process. Also, during the OUS days it was very difficult for a campus to have a differential tuition approved by a campus so that also limited the funds available.

Most new graduate programs are created by a core group of faculty with the expertise and interest in a field. I suspect that those three schools lack a critical mass of faculty who want to build a DPT program since they would not likely be able to teach in a DPT program themselves. Faculty are busy enough without adding the workload of creating a new program for someone else to teach in.

In terms of why are the other schools not pursuing a DPT? This is only speculation on my part...

PSU—Multiple changes in Presidents and Provosts over the past 5-10 years makes new initiatives like this more difficult to pursue.

OSU—Pursuing a DPT at the Cascades campus

UO—DPT is an applied doctorate and UO is focusing on new research and PhD programs. The UO is very concerned about its research presence and national reputation and a DPT program does not strengthen its research reputation.

Note from Rob Winningham: WOU has a pre PT program as well.