

Faculty Senate: OER Progress Update, July 9 2019

Did you know that WOU now has an OER (Open Educational Resource) Task Force?

We're a group of faculty, staff, administrators, and students who are developing and implementing a plan to track and incentive the adoption of OER and other low/no-cost course materials at WOU.

WOU is already making great strides in OER adoption by working with OpenOregon, an arm of the HECC that coordinates OER work around the state. We've held 2 open textbook workshops that provided stipends of \$200 for reviewing a textbook from the Open Textbook Library. Following the first workshop, 11 faculty reviewed a book, and 4 plan to adopt the book they reviewed. There were 15 people at the second workshop, and 8 of the participants are taking part in further OER initiatives. Three completed the redesign of a course during the textbook sprint, four are applying for OpenOregon grants this summer, and one recently completed a textbook from last year's OpenOregon's grant process.

OpenOregon also offered faculty the opportunity to participate in a free asynchronous week-long "sprint" early in March, with the goal of redesigning a course using an OER. Participants received a stipend of \$750 if they successfully completed the course redesign. Eighty-three percent of those that signed up for the sprint have completed the redesign, which will save WOU students approximately \$120,000 as commercially published textbooks will no longer be used.

Sue Kunda, who is leading these efforts at WOU, received a UBAC proposal that Rob told us about in the last Faculty Senate meeting. With this support, along with OpenOregon's resources, our vision is to provide transformative education via universally accessible OER pathways to degree completion. We are currently formulating a plan to track OER adoption and low/no-cost course materials, as is mandated by HB 2871. We are also working to spread awareness and understanding of OERs and related materials, and to celebrate faculty who are already doing significant OER work. Our long term goal is to create one or more degree pathways that use only OER/low-cost materials, and make high-quality open, accessible course materials a core value of WOU as we strive to be the most affordable public university in the state of Oregon.

If you are interested in getting involved with these efforts, please let Leanne or Sue Kunda know. For now, Leanne will be serving as the Faculty Senate liaison for the Task Force.

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