WOU Ad Hoc Committee on Certificates Report

June 11, 2020

Committee Members

Amy Clark, Registrar; Cindy Ryan, Education and Leadership; Earlene Camarillo, Social Science; Jaime Marroquin, Humanities; Joshua Schulze, Education and Leadership; Kimberly Jensen, Social Science; Kristen Klay, Humanities; Lars Söderlund, Humanities; Melissa Cannon, Behavioral Science; Robin Smith, Social Science; Stewart Baker, Library

Charge

In the 2019/2020 academic year, the Ad Hoc Committee on Certificates was formed by a request from Faculty Senate Executive Committee to consider the following:

1) review our existing regulations on certificates at WOU

2) compare to other certificate regulations, for example from outside accrediting bodies in your fields

3) discuss and weigh considerations such as how much required upper-division is appropriate, how much double-dipping with majors/minors is acceptable, how do proposals articulate the value of the certificate in jobs/career advancement for students, how are the included courses ideally related, what are best practices for disseminating availability of offered certificates at WOU, what do students physically receive when awarded a certificate, and anything else that comes up in discussion

4) Determine any appropriate changes/updates to the current WOU requirements and develop a draft proposal to bring to faculty senate executive committee

Discussions

The committee held a number of wide-ranging discussions focused on WOU's existing practices, barriers they presented to faculty and students, financial aid, upper division credit requirements, practices at peer institutions, double credentialing, and other areas of concern.

Tentative Language

Although the committee has not yet reached a consensus or proposed formal changes, tentative language around certificate outcomes and makeup was presented to Faculty Senate in June of 2020.

The committee intends to continue meeting in the next academic year, with the objective of making a formal proposal about certificates at WOU as charged.