

University Council
March 8, 2019
Minutes

Present: Rex Fuller, Laurie Burton, Kathy Cassity, Paul Disney, Gary Dukes, Tina Fuchs, Evelyn Guzman, Ryan Hagemann, Rip Horsey, Ana Karaman, Richard Kavanagh, Bill Kernan, Dave McDonald, Erin McDonough, Sue Monahan, Janeanne Rockwell-Kincanon, Adele Schepige, Abdus Shahid, Michael Smith, Linda Stonecipher, Judy Vanderburg, LouAnn Vickers (Ex-Officio), Niki Weight

Absent: Scott Beaver, Curtis Campbell, Mark Girod, Rob Winningham

Updates and Progress Reports

- **Becoming a Doctoral Degree Granting Institution**

Western is currently pursuing two doctoral degree programs: Doctor of Physical Therapy (DPT) and Ed.D. in Interpreting Studies. The DPT program has already been approved by Faculty Senate, the WOU Board of Trustees, and the statewide Provost Council. The next step will be approval by the Higher Education Coordinating Commission (HECC), followed by our accrediting agency, NWCCU. The Ed.D. in Interpreting Studies is still in the early stages. Both programs are defined by NWCCU as “professional doctoral degrees.”

Because these two degrees will be WOU’s first doctoral programs, it will require a substantive change request with the NWCCU. To prepare for the substantive change request, the university will need to participate in a self-evaluation to demonstrate an understanding of the distinctive character of doctoral education and to show that we have the resources to offer the new level of degrees while maintaining our existing programs effectively. Additionally, WOU will need legislature to enable it to offer applied doctorates.

As part of the self-evaluation, a campus survey will be distributed this spring addressing three questions:

- 1) Is this aligned with our institutional purposes and educational objectives?
- 2) Do we have resources (i.e., faculty, information resources, infrastructure) to support doctoral education?
- 3) Do we currently have quality assurance systems that can support doctoral programs?

Dr. Monahan and Dr. Winningham will look forward to the input from campus regarding the three questions.

- **Advising Resource Guide**

As a result of discussions at the University Council Retreat last fall, the Student Success and Advising Office (SSAO) developed the Advising Resource Guide. This tool

was created to better equip academic advisors. The guide is accessible on their [website](#).

- **Kognito Demonstration**

Colin Haines, Director of Veterans Support Services, provided an overview and demonstration of the Kognito Online Training Program. This simulated program is designed to give faculty and staff an opportunity to interact in practical scenarios they might encounter while serving veteran students. The training program provides insights on how to notice signs of distress, techniques to use to discuss concerns, and, if needed, how to refer students to appropriate resources. There is also a module for student leaders which is currently used to train the student mentors who serve in Veterans Support Services. WOU's license will expire in July 2019, so Haines hopes campus is able to take advantage of this training opportunity.

- **Northwest (NWCCU) Update**

Our mid-cycle report was submitted March 1. A university focus group met in December to evaluate two case studies that were included in the report. The report also includes our year-one report as well as responses to the recommendations we received as a result of the 2016 site visit. The mid-cycle report provides evidence of practices and activities that were established in response to these recommendations.

A site visit to review the mid-cycle report is scheduled for April 4-5. During this visit, the review team will be given opportunities to have conversations with campus constituents regarding our progress, process improvements, and our plans as we move forward to 2023. Their report will then go to the NWCCU commissioners for review.

The mid-cycle report can be reviewed on the Academic Affairs [website](#).

- **OMA (architectural) Update**

Mike Elliott, WOU project manager, joined Director of Facilities Michael Smith, to provide an update on the remodel of the Oregon Military Academy – soon to be renamed the Welcome Center.

We are in the schematic design phase of the project. Campus Facilities is working with the contractor to review the drawings that have been rendered and develop the cost estimate to ensure the project is within budget. Three campus workshops have taken place to provide input on the remodel, with a fourth workshop scheduled in March.

The first floor of the building will be completely remodeled. It will include the currently located food pantry and relocation of the mailroom and print shop. The goal is to have the relocation of these two departments completed by July 2019. This will free up space in ITC to continue the remodel of that building. Ultimately, the offices of Financial Aid, Alumni Services, Registrar, and Admissions will also be housed there.

The second floor will continue to be used for overnight guests, creating suites that will include approximately 80 beds (versus the original 130).

With the development of a courtyard, guests will be redirected through multiple entrances. Campus guests will come through the courtyard while external guests will enter through the front/main entrance. “Wayfinding” signage is also being developed to guide guests through campus to the Welcome Center.

- **Legislative update**

Ryan Hagemann and David McDonald provided an overview of the current legislative session. Hagemann noted that while the seven public universities collaborate through the Oregon Council of Presidents (OCOP), the four Technical and Regional Universities (TRU's) have hired an outside lobbyist to represent them in the capitol on a daily basis throughout this session.

The Governor's Recommended Budget (GRB) flat funded the Public University Support Fund (PUSF) for this biennium with funding of \$738 million. The universities have collectively been asking for an additional \$120 million to cover the current service level (CSL) and it was noted that the co-chairs of the Ways & Means Committee met to review the GRB and recommended an increase of \$40 million to the PUSF. There is much to still be determined as the legislative session continues through mid-June.

Hagemann noted that TRU Day at the Capitol is scheduled for May 14 this year. More information regarding WOU's participation will be distributed at a later date.

Dave McDonald noted that early childhood education - grade 12 is a major theme at the capitol this session. One of the major topics is Senate Bill 3, which would permit community colleges (CC) to award AB degrees. Each CC will have to be approved through a multifaceted process, including the HECC and NWCCU. In addition to these approvals, the community college will also have to show that there is an unmet need of AB degrees in their community. It was noted that WOU is currently offering several AB degrees, with an expansion of opportunities at the WOU:Salem site.

- **University Diversity and Inclusion Advisory Committee (UDIAC) Update**

The UDIAC has been given a new charge and responsibilities. As noted on page four of the [NWCCU mid-cycle report](#), the establishment of this committee aligns with Governance & Continuous Improvement processes WOU has established. Membership of the committee was developed through the governance process. Their first meeting is scheduled April 4.

Meeting adjourned at 10:17am.

Upcoming meetings

Spring term: April 19 and May 17