

- **Key Searches:** searches are actively underway for Director for Institutional Research and for Registrar.
- **Update on Saudi Arabian Cultural Mission (SACM) scholarship students and online courses.** When advising students, please be aware of the following explicit instructions from SACM academic advisor, Amina Attab:

“Please note that SACM must approve the online courses, otherwise students are not permitted to enroll in any online course even if they pay from their own pocket. Exceeding 12 online credits throughout their degree for undergraduate students and 6 online credits for graduate students will affect the authentication/equalization of their diplomas in KSA. The Ministry of Higher Education in KSA is very firm about the online courses limitation.

Your cooperation with us in regard to this matter is highly appreciated.”

In response to these instructions SACM students will be permitted to enroll into online courses, but will be dropped from an online course if they have not provided the SACM authorization memo to Ambre Plahn in the International Education and Development Office by first day of the term. Please discourage students from taking online versions of any course for which there is a face-to-face or hybrid class section.

- **House Bill 3335A** is on the Governor’s desk for signature. The bill (posted at Faculty Senate agenda) directs public universities to work with the HECC to design “effective solutions” for students who complete two or more years of coursework at a university and drop out with no formal recognition of this effort. Likely, one solution will be to craft a general Associate of Arts degree. WOU had issued AAs in the past, but has not been actively engaged in such programming since 2007. **I would like for Faculty Senate to take up the review of how an AA degree should be configured and what conditions should apply.**

Language in 2006-2007 catalog:

“The Associate in Arts is a two-year program for students who have not chosen an area of specialization. The liberal arts requirements assure the student of a sound general education.

A minimum of 93 credit hours, including completion of the Liberal Arts Core Curriculum, MTH 105 (or above) and CS 101 (or above) and a minimum cumulative GPA of 2.0 are required for the degree. At least 24 credit hours of the 93 must be taken on the WOU campus. At least 24 credit hours must be completed after approval of the individual program.”

- **House Bill 2525** has been signed by the Governor (posted at Faculty Senate agenda). The HECC will convene a work group -- initially populated by the Joint Transfer and Articulation Committee -- to make recommendations to streamline the transfer process; *e.g.*, why some credits do not transfer or transfer only as an elective; ensure that “credits earned for completion of sufficiently similar courses are fully transferable between all community colleges and public universities”; identify majors in baccalaureate degree programs that require more than two years to complete after student has earned an associate transfer degree, etc.

- As previously noted at the last Faculty Senate meeting, in consultation with the deans, I submitted WOU's **mission alignment and program matrix** draft which was adopted by the HECC at their June board meeting (posted at Faculty Senate agenda). The mission alignment and program matrix reflects our mission intensity in supporting state objectives for student access, academic program intensity, and innovation/research. This matrix will be used by the HECC to better understand the roles of the various universities and whether newly proposed programming would be within mission and not overly duplicate existing programming at other institutions. This is a living document and can be modified in the future.
- **The top two Provost initiatives in 2015-2016:** 1) preparation for Year-7 NWCCU self-study and April 10-13 accreditation site visit; 2) strengthening the coordination of faculty and staff efforts on academic advising/mentoring of students for meeting general education core curriculum, major and minor requirements.

Parting (student-related) comment:

- Athletic Director Barb Dearing mentioned that as the WOU 4th of July float was navigating down the parade route, many (future student) voices were heard exclaiming: "There's Wolfie!" My thanks to the thermally-brave WOU student who wore the Wolfie costume for the good of the cause. Thanks also to all the student Wolfies who have made our mascot a well-known member of the Monmouth-Independence community.