To: Faculty Senate

From: Stephen Scheck, Dean of Liberal Arts and Sciences

Date: November 10, 2010

Re: 2+1 Associate in Arts articulation agreements with partner Chinese universities

Chinese students pursue baccalaureate degrees at WOU as part of formal degree partnership agreements. However, recent changes in that government’s education policies threaten to impede future students’ abilities to return to China and work in governmental agencies. The International Student and Scholars Office anticipates the impact on this student demographic at WOU to be significant.

The new government policies do permit Chinese universities to enter into 2+1 AA degree partnerships with U.S. universities, however. AA degrees in China are three-year degrees, so the 2+1 model is attractive to our partnering universities.

Three divisions in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences plan to utilize the AA degree to craft articulation agreements with Chinese universities. These articulations were developed by the faculty in their respective programs—Creative Arts (Art/Graphic Design), Computer Science, Business—to coordinate the two years of study in China (instruction in English) with a third year of study at WOU.

The prescribed tracks can be followed by U.S. students en route to the BA/BS degree. The tracks meet all general education/LACC/BA-BS requirements and provide a more rigorous academic foundation than the AAOT and ASOT from Oregon community colleges. Chinese credits will be treated as approved transfer credits in the same fashion as the AAOT.

We expect the majority of the Chinese students to remain at WOU to complete a fourth year--leading to either the BS/BA degree or, for some, continuation into our Management and Information Systems graduate program.

WOU had actively offered the AA degree until 2007 when it was no longer listed in the general catalog. A limited number of students still continue to graduate with the AA.