

- **Transfer SOAR this past Saturday and on August 29:**

About 252 students participated in TSOAR last Saturday – the largest in the last 11 years. Because of student patterns on connecting with the university, in addition to the usual early summer SOARS, we will be scheduling another SOAR on Tuesday, August 29 for transfer and freshmen students. **I ask that we take inventory of who will be in the area – faculty program APAs -- that would be able to come to campus to assist with advising students in the major.**

It is good to note that our transfer student population is going up while the other public universities incoming transfer populations have been flat or declining. Note: for fall 2016, 42% of our fall admits were transfer students.

No doubt, some of this increase in transfer student interest in WOU is because of some relationship building our faculty are making with feeder community colleges. For example, Dave Olsen and NTT faculty member Don Kraus have established a strong relationship with the CS/IS program at Chemeketa for the applied baccalaureate programs in CS/IS. I believe we had 12 students from Chemeketa over here this past Saturday because of this relationship. Other programs, such as behavioral sciences, education have also strengthened ties with important feeder schools.

- **Academic Program Review:** As part of preparation to transition into a 7-yr cycle of academic program review we will be distributing draft documentation to the deans and division chairs for review. Plan for a soft roll-out to where next year may involve self-study work with external review or external review pushed to subsequent year or external review not used in this cycle. Departments wishing to replace retiring faculty or making requests for new faculty lines or considering new degree programs might wish to volunteer for self-study next year. Reassignment time for the lead in the self-studies will be considered.
- **General Education Task Force:** As Adele has already reported, the gen ed task force had an invigorating two days of discussion with Paul Hanstedt. For those who could not attend a town-hall session last Thursday and Friday, Hanstedt's presentations will be made available for viewing.
- **Mexican Consulate and DACA student scholarships:** I had opportunity to attend a reception on campus celebrating our Bilingual Educator program with representatives from the Portland Mexican Consulate. The representatives were on campus to celebrate DACA students who had received Consular scholarships. WOU was one of the few colleges/universities to receive Consular scholarship funds. Importantly, the Consular representatives emphasized the legal hotline the Consulate runs 24/7 should any DACA student have issues with Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE). They emphasized that that should be the first number the student calls.