

## **Division of Deaf Studies and Professional Studies Statement Response to the *PC Rubric***

We, the Division of Deaf Studies and Professional Studies, understand the need for fiscal responsibility. We do not understand the exercise that involves a rubric that asks for “relative size of major” and “scale of program.” This rubric does not incorporate the values that we hold true in our division or that we believe that the university has represented since its inception. We are a division who prepares service providers for a small diverse population of people in this country and the world. Though our programs are small and the population our students ultimately serve is low incidence, our work is critical and we do not lose revenue. We do better than break even. Public universities are not designed to make a profit; our programs fit well in the public university model.

All of the programs at WOU support our division mission which is to serve underrepresented and underserved populations, including people with disabilities and those who are Deaf, DeafBlind, and hard of hearing. Graduates of our programs are ethical, reflective, and dynamic practitioners who work in partnership with the communities they serve. They become critical thinkers, communicators, creative problem solvers, innovators, and life-long learners through the skills they acquire as they progress through a liberal arts core curriculum.

In our division, we provide opportunities for students to develop as counselors, interpreters, teachers, and support service providers to people who are from diverse cultures, including those who are Deaf, DeafBlind, and hard of hearing. Our programs do not fare well with this type of rubric, because we are here to serve a low-incidence population who matters. We are here to educate people who will provide service to a small ignored and neglected population of people. Our programs are designed to support each other. The ASL program is the foundation of all of our programs, from interpreting, to teaching, to counseling. We rely on a majority of non-tenure track faculty to set that foundation. Now they are being asked to teach more credits, to increase class sizes, and to teach online. This is unreasonable; we are now betraying and taking advantage of them.

This rubric and the tight timeline initiated by administration leaves faculty powerless, leaves faculty expertise out of the process, and without opportunity to actually seek efficiencies. This kind of process should take months (or years) and all of the stakeholders. We believe that the administration is taking advantage of this time in history to move forward with an agenda that is not aligned with WOU’s values of accessibility, accountability, collaboration, community, diversity and respect, empowerment, excellence, and sustainability and stewardship.

We, the faculty in the Division of Deaf Studies and Professional Studies, want to see a process that honors the development of professionals who are able to serve in a well-rounded, critical, and compassionate manner. This rubric does not achieve this goal. We propose a long-term thoughtful self-study process that involves all of the stakeholders, not a rubric that is initiated by administration and haphazardly employed.