
[WOU President] Campus Update

1 message

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To: wou-president@wou.edu
Cc: Betty Komp <kompb@wou.edu>

Tue, Nov 29, 2022 at 3:59 PM

Dear WOU Community,

I hope everyone had a chance for some enjoyable time with family and friends last week. As we move into December and look towards next year, I want to take a minute and provide a few updates.

The first is that I tested positive for COVID on Sunday. So far symptoms are medium to mild, and I'm isolating at home. Hopefully, I will be able to join you all on Friday for the tree lighting. That feels like an important moment for our community, a reminder of the power of people and place, a light we all make together. So I hope to see you then!

Here are a few updates:

1) The search for a new Provost will be an important undertaking, and one that we will have to launch soon. I'll be working with a search firm to ensure a solid pool of candidates, and more information will be forthcoming. Over the next couple of weeks, we should get a search committee and firm in place so that we can launch an ad as quickly as possible.

2) As I announced last week, Ryan Hagemann is leaving WOU relatively shortly. The Counsel's Office is key to the functioning of our university, managing contracts, supporting the BOT, facilitating relations with our unions, providing support to HR, etc. I will be talking with Ryan, Carson, and Marlee to ascertain how best to move forward in both the short and long term.

3) Over the next few weeks, we will be hosting candidates on campus for Director of Admissions, VP for Advancement, Director of Government Relations, and PIO/Social Media Coordinator. I hope you will get a chance to interact with them and provide feedback. I appreciate the work of the search committees very much in identifying strong candidates for these positions.

4) Soon, I will be communicating how we will undertake the modeling of possible budget reductions. We must envision how we will meet fiscal sustainability. Increasing enrollment and retention is part of that path, but we also have to face potential spending reductions and develop new revenue streams. The VPs and their direct reports will be facilitating conversations with units as we engage this work after the first of the year.

Winter and Spring of 2023 are going to be incredibly busy for Western. Here is a list of what we will be undertaking as a community:

- * Engaging in a strategic planning process
- * Mapping possible budget reductions
- * Hosting a visit by our accrediting body, NWCCU: they are interested in our map to financial sustainability
- * Searching for a new Provost
- * Considering recommendations for a restructure in AA
- * Starting a legislative session
- * Entering bargaining with WOUFT

Finally, I hope you can join me at the Winter Wonderland Celebration in the Pacific Room on December 6th 4:30-6:30. The WOU Foundation has generously provided funding for the event. I think it is important to recognize the hard work of WOU's employees with a celebration and social gathering.

Thanks for all you do.

JP

And here's a poem too.....

How Soon

BY GORDON HENRY JR.

The story goes from in a rainfall
to sister walking a field
browned autumn. And when she arrives
winter has come, so the old man
rises from his chair, picks up
matches, pipes and tools, and
walks out to begin again.

The sculptures grow by the day,
birds in ice, recognizable
eagles, a bear who began
as a man in a moment of dance.
He does this in ice, all
winter carving at dawn,
carving at dusk.

And sister after walking a field
browned autumn, arrives, watches
from the east window, waits,
goes out to him in spring,
taps him on the shoulder
and points to the pools
of water he's standing over.

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