

- **Congratulations to promoted faculty.**  
**Full professor:** William Armstrong, Scott Beaver, Vivian Djokotoe, Shaun Huston, David Murphy, Ike Nail, Michael Phillips and Tracy Smiles  
  
**Associate professor with tenure:** Doris Cancel-Tirado, Kenneth Carano, Patricia Gimenez-Eguibar, Ava Howard, Ethan McMahan, Rebecca Morgan, Daniel Tankersley, Rob Troyer and Alicia Wenzel.
- **Registrar has been appointed.** Amy Clark, will start with us on December 1, 2015. Amy currently serves as the Enrollment Services Coordinator at Chemeketa Community College. Prior to her affiliation with Chemeketa, she served as Assistant Registrar for Operations at Oregon State University. Amy brings a wealth of both policy knowledge and hands-on experience in registrarial environments. Many thanks to all the search committees who gave of their time to the recruitment process.
- **Northwest Commission 7-yr report and visit.** Please work with your deans as they compile information to substantiate our fulfillment of mission and updating information in our year 3 report.
- **Major curriculum comparison initiative.** Reminder that academic units should have completed this review last spring. See your deans if you have questions. Unless departments/programs have this review on file, I will not be able to take action on curricular proposals from those departments.
- **Academic Infrastructure Committee.** The committee will be coming out with new guidelines, shortly, that will enable the committee members to best apply their faculty skills in reviewing proposals. Meanwhile, please, when seeking building repairs/improvements...talk with your dean.
- **Institutional Faculty Senate.** Encourage engagement with this body; it is active on the state-wide political scene.

- **Student persistence.** The academic affairs leadership team and the Executive Committee of the Faculty Senate met in retreat this fall; a central topic was steps for us to take to improve likelihood of student persistence toward graduation, with a minimal of excess credits (costs).

A number of items were discussed, including

- 1) instituting advisor holds on all undergraduate students;
- 2) declaring DegreeWorks as THE official degree plan;
- 3) producing and publishing 4-yr degree paradigms (ideal of 180 credits) with all prerequisites included;
- 4) assess the benefits of the learning outcomes/graduate preparedness objectives of our current requirement for a required minor vs. the costs to student time to completion and college affordability.

**Parting (student-related) comment:**

- Two weeks ago my wife and I drove up to the Dutch Brothers on HWY 99 and listened in on a very animated conversation with the four baristas on duty – all WOU students. With a little initial prompting from Anne, we got the four of them to begin describing who their favorite professors are...for two of the three, their favorite professor was also their academic advisor. I wish to thank all of you for the time you devote to mentoring our students—both in the classroom and in your office.