

- **Add my congratulations to this year's Pastega recipients...** Excellence in Teaching: Cheryl Beaver (Mathematics) and Excellence in Scholarship: Darryl Thomas (Dance)
- **New initiative to improve degree completion...** LaRon Tolley will be moving from his current position in Liberal Arts and Sciences, where he has served as coordinator of the Interdisciplinary Studies major and director of our Fire Services Administration program, to a newly-created position within Academic Affairs where he will lead the university's efforts on degree completion and provide student advocate services as a central "bridge" connecting students to all faculty, departments, and administrative services affecting their graduation.

This is an outgrowth of a 2015 pilot project on which LaRon assisted to identify students who had significant credit units completed, but had dropped out of college, and get them reengaged with WOU.

LaRon will continue to oversee degree completion for current students in the Fire Services Administration program as we close out that program.

Dean Monahan is creating a faculty committee to oversee the Interdisciplinary Studies program; including student advising. She will report in to Faculty Senate as that organizational effort is finalized.

- **Oregon Academic Advising Association Conference, June 22 session co-sponsored by WOU and NACADA.** The Provost Office will cover the \$35 registration cost for faculty to attend this one-day event. See <http://www.wou.edu/or-advising-conference/registration/>

Do not worry about the method of payment section—leave blank. Please register by May 15 if possible. Questions? Alex Kunkle in Academic Advising and Learning Center.

- **Video Content Management System...** last summer, in response to on-going concerns about our Moodle platform being put at performance risk due to video content, I charged the Technology Extended Campus committee to review video content management systems and come back with a recommendation. The committee vetted a number of platforms and came to a recommendation of Kaltura because it:
 - Provides smoother integration with Moodle from the user's perspective
 - Serves better the needs of units across campus (e.g., academic users of Moodle, public relations videos for public viewing, ODS needs for more effective automatic transcription of home grown videos)
 - Has stronger search capabilities
 - Comes with local users groups because OSU and University of Portland use this technology
 - Includes more features that are important to faculty and staff, per user surveys and discussion among the TEC group

Next step is building the fees associated with such capability into our annual budget.

- **Closing comment** – Last week I had the opportunity to be seated at a table with four Presidential Scholarship recipients – two sophomores, a junior and senior. They like being students at WOU. When I asked them what was their hardest aspect about navigating their freshman year – three of the four said...knowing what to take (i.e., in what courses to enroll and in what term). I appreciate faculty efforts to complete 4-yr recommended degree plans for all our degrees – this will help abate this uncertainty. BTW—the fourth student noted homesickness.