

- **Reminder: Mario and Alma Pastega Award May 11<sup>th</sup> 3:15 – 5:00, Willamette Rm.**

**for Excellence in Teaching: Dr. Vivian Djokotoe**  
**Professor of Criminal Justice**

**for Excellence in Scholarship: Dr. Eliot Dickinson,**  
**Professor of Political Science**

- **Course learning outcomes mapping to undergraduate learning outcomes or graduate learning outcomes:** As of last week, over 1500 courses have had course goals submitted -- about 75 faculty working on behalf of their programs participated. Very good outcome and will be a pleasure to note so in our fall report to NWCCU. Sue Monahan sent out a more detailed summary of this work in an all-faculty email, today.
- **Provosts Council-reviewed new programs:** I would like to share a table that notes the various new degree programs that have been reviewed by provosts council since 2014. Note, the chart does not include minors or certificates.
- **Chronical of Higher Education chart on federal loans:** In recent weeks we've talked at some length at the cost of our students getting out of WOU. I wished to share the tabulation on Title IV federal borrowing rates among public and private 4-year universities in the country. WOU came in at 22<sup>nd</sup> out of 677 public universities in 2014-2015
- **General Education Task Force:** I look forward to working with the task force...and am pleased at the core number of members who currently are on the general education committee that has been working up general education learning outcomes that will help focus the task force's efforts.

This is a unique opportunity to start with a blank sheet of paper and have the team create possibilities. The schedule for Dr. Paul Hanstedt's visit will be released and, in addition to three campus wide sessions, the task force members and members of the FS general education committee will have an opportunity to have additional time with Dr. Hanstedt.

- **Shared Governance:** Lastly, I do wish to recognize that moving forward on academic programming initiatives needs to be done in an environment of shared governance. If there is a belief by some that as provost I have not been supportive of this tenet, I sincerely apologize if I have disappointed.

I am committed to a shared governance working environment...but I do wish to emphasize that in this environment all of us must take into consideration all factors that affect our ability to provide educational programming – such as, but not limited to, academic quality and assessment issues, time-sensitive issues, competitive market issues, political issues, and, as I noted earlier with the Chronical of Higher Education chart -- college-affordability issues. The decisions we need to make and the time we take to make those decisions do not occur in an academic vacuum.

When, at times as provost, I may be in disagreement with a position that a faculty member, a department/program, a dean or even Faculty Senate takes, I do wish to see if something can be worked out, that we can have open discourse, but ultimately, I have a fiduciary obligation to the State of Oregon to move academic programming at WOU in a direction that I believe is best for the mission of the university and is compliant with the wishes of the Board of Trustees.

I do look forward to our on-going shared work in envisioning the WOU of the future and how we make our institution a first-choice destination for students. The launch of the general education review is a substantial first step in this on-going shared work.