

- **Academic Advising:** On a personal note, as some of you may know, Karen Sullivan-Vance has accepted an associate provost position at University of Tennessee, Knoxville. We wish her the best in this opportunity. Fortunately, we have good bench depth in academic advising: Jesse Poole will step in to serve as the interim director as of Oct. 19th. A search is planned for spring/summer.

Another change: the Academic Advising and Learning Center recently underwent a change of name that better reflects its core mission -- **Student Success and Academic Advising Office.**

- **American Institution of Research:** Through the efforts of General Counsel Ryan Hagemann, WOU is now officially recognized by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security as an American Institution of Research. This designation in Homeland Security's system enables our permanent foreign resident faculty (*i.e.*, green card holders) to be able to be out-of-country for longer periods of time, such as on sabbatical, than without this designation.
- **The university policy council:** is in an on-going state of editing our library of policies and procedures. I encourage all to go to the policy council website -- <http://www.wou.edu/policycouncil/> -- and peruse the Policy Library. If you see policies that seem "out of touch" with our current environment or if you've often thought "there ought to be a law" about some university process...please send comments to me.
- **HB 2998:** Dr. Tad Shannon, associate professor of computer science, will be serving on the HECC advisory committee dealing with HB 2998 – the transfer student bill of rights. This legislation sets out deliverables for 30 universally-accepted transfer college credits and establishment each year of three new transfer pathways in high demand or high value degree programs. Faculty interested in following the work of the HB2998 work groups can go to HECC pages at:

--Interested parties can now sign up for Transfer Pathways Updates when they [subscribe to other email communications](#) of the HECC (*i.e.* public meeting notices, newsletters) here.

--The 2998 web page is now published. It is called [Development of Transfer Credit Agreements: Implementation of House Bill 2998.](#)

--The direct link is here: <http://www.oregon.gov/highered/policy-collaboration/Pages/transfer-2998.aspx>  
In the menu, it is housed under Policy & Collaboration, [Featured Initiatives.](#)

- **General Education Task Force:** Senate President Schepige has already reported about Task Force activities. I did wish to add several comments – first, it was a pleasure to work with the faculty on the General Education Task Force this summer. The discussions and debates that ensued during Task Force meetings were lively, collegial, but Task Force members agreed to focus these debates through the lens of “what will serve students, best?” At times, this demanded that faculty operate outside of customary divisional positions and keep focused on the larger goal of what general education could or should entail. I am especially indebted to Breeann Flesch for her peer leadership in co-chairing the Task Force. Beverly West and Dan Clark of the Center for Academic Innovation have been providing critical staff support to the Task Force. I urge all faculty

and staff to attend the General Education town hall meetings and to provide comments to the Task Force at the town halls and via the on-line survey system available at the Faculty Senate home page.

- **Provost memo to Faculty Senate on the 180-credit degree initiative:** Addressing student completion within 180-credits is a complex enterprise we are engaging in; involving general education redesign, treatment of the minor, definition of B.A. and B.S., number of upper-division credits required, transfer student accommodation and a host of implementation issues. I direct faculty attention to the memo from me to Faculty Senate included in today's docket. There are a number parallel processes noted in the memo.

Because of this complexity, I plan to schedule informal town hall meetings with "the provost" throughout the academic year in order to discuss in more detail questions that arise from pursuit of the 180-credit degree initiative.