

IFS Report to WOU Faculty Senate
November 27, 2018

On November 16th and 17th, Interinstitutional Faculty Senate met at Western Oregon University. Tad Shannon and Leanne Merrill represented Western. Here is a brief summary of the discussion:

- Some updates on the implementation of HB 2998: Core transfer maps have been approved by HECC, and are moving through campuses (in fact, we are seeing this today in the Gen Ed alignment proposed by Dr. Breeann Flesch). Major transfer maps are up next: Biology and English are slated to be completed in the next month, followed by Business and Education in the next few months. See <https://www.oregon.gov/highered/policy-collaboration/Pages/transfer-2998.aspx> for more details about these plans. Expect to see these major-specific proposals coming through our institution soon. Thanks to Tad Shannon and his work on OTAC for much of this information and progress.
- We spoke about HECC's 11 upcoming legislative concepts, and focused on two in particular. The first is a tax incentive that allows employers to deduct taxes for student loans paid by the employer on the (former) student's behalf. This appeared to have support, but we are not clear on the impact such legislation would have on public universities in Oregon particularly. The second legislative concept is a proposal that HECC have access to university financial data. The scope of this access is unclear, and IFS was nervous about the implications this might have.
- We spoke in great detail about the need for increased communication between community colleges (CCs) and the public universities around student advising and other matters of shared importance. One of our guests was Jim Salt, who is President of the Oregon Education Association Community College Council, which is analogous to IFS for CC's. With him, we discussed the possible creation of a universal transfer portal, as well as strategies for legal advocacy around issues that affect both CC's and universities. For example, the current funding model which does not reward CCs unless a student receives a degree, thus incentivizing them to advise that students transfer only after receiving an Associates (which often slows them down in their completion of a Bachelor's).

In addition to these issues, we reported on events at our own campuses and collaborated on problem-solving around these issues.

We also re-invigorated the IFS website, which is oregonifs.org. On the website you can find more detailed information about the legislative concepts not discussed above. We also hope to update it soon with minutes and other resources.

[Report prepared by Leanne Merrill.]