Provost Winningham's Faculty Senate Report
October 27, 2020

1. Academic Advising

Now that advising season for winter term registration is underway, SSA has created a one stop place on our website with resources for advisors to help them support students: https://wou.edu/advising/advisor-resources/. This website has access to quick links for advising appointments and campus resources, in-depth advising guides, technology tutorials, and a new News/Updates section. In the News/Updates section, there is also an option to submit an update if you have changes in your area that you would like to share with advisors across campus. Advisors can also access recorded advisor trainings on the training/development page: https://wou.edu/advising/advisor-trainingdevelopment/.

2. Canvas

There are approximately 330 courses in Canvas this fall term. A user survey will go out in mid-November to students and faculty, with a second, shorter survey going out only to faculty following the end of fall term, to capture experiences with grading and final assessments.

Academic Innovation, University Computing Solutions, and the University Registrar are preparing the opt-in process for Winter term. The process will be the same as fall, with all instructors who wish to teach in Canvas providing CRNs through a form. Some changes to improve the process have been implemented, including a method for instructors to verify their submission, an extended timeline for selection, and automated Banner syncs. More information will be provided in a forthcoming announcement.

Academic Innovation will resume its guided course conversions and Canvas Fundamentals training for interested instructors in November.

3. Open Educational Resources (OER)

WOU OER Stipend Program, provides awards ranging from $1000-$4000 to adopt, adapt, or create OER. Applications close November 1 and awardees will be announced November 23.

Here's another paid opportunity for faculty interested in OER:
OpenStax, an OER textbook publishing initiative out of Rice University, is actively recruiting faculty advisors, reviewers, and contributors for new introductory textbooks in Computer Science, World History, Political Science, Finance, and Philosophy. The development process is extensive and flexible, and they welcome involvement from a wide range of instructors and experts.

For more information about either of these opportunities, please contact Sue Kunda.

4. Unicheck – Plagiarism Checker

From 2018-2020, WOU used TurnItIn as a plagiarism checker. Prior to 2018, WOU did not have a tool in place. TurnItIn's cost raised concern this past summer and resulted in a recommendation from AI to switch to Unicheck, a comparable product with a more favorable pricepoint. UTAC Faculty Senate Representatives were consulted on this decision.

Unicheck and WOU's General Counsel are still finalizing this agreement. Unicheck has informed WOU that we may begin using its tool as a trial version and Academic Innovation has reached out to the vendor to quickly install the product for faculty use.