

Provost Wunningham's Faculty Senate Report January 12, 2021

1. **Travel.** Only essential travel for time being, but research can be considered essential travel. If reservations are made, we need to try to have changeable reservations.

2. **CircleIn.** We are launching CircleIn on January 19th. Thanks to federal Cares Act funding, Academic Affairs is implementing CircleIn to help students overcome challenges that were identified in the Spring 2020 COVID-19 survey.

CircleIn was created to provide academically supportive connections to students, helping them accelerate their learning by being more productive in a collaborative, community-based digital learning environment. Backed by the National Science Foundation with an innovation grant, students use CircleIn is an easy-to-use studying app and website, where students can study online together and seek to help their classmates who are struggling before it is too late. The biggest influencers earn points, gifts and scholarships for positively engaging and supporting their community of classmates.

One advantage of CircleIn is that it is designed to be “hands off” for faculty. Although faculty can opt to use the tool to engage with students, it is designed for students to primarily benefit from engaging with each other without faculty intervention. The main thing faculty can do is to make students aware of the tool and encourage them to use it.

Implementation leads have been reaching out to tutoring center coordinators, librarians, faculty, and other stakeholders to incorporate those services into the CircleIn platform. More information about CircleIn can be [found on their website](#).

Here is the video of the introductory webinar we did in December:

<https://vimeo.com/showcase/7922910/video/492151100>

3. **Open Oregon** is offering faculty and instructors \$750 stipends to redesign your course with an open textbook or other open educational resources during Open Education Week, March 1-5. The goal of the training is to save students money, but you'll also explore open educational practices that encourage students to create or contribute to open content with a real-world purpose. Registration deadline is February 22. More information can be found on the Open Oregon website.

In other news, keep Friday, March 5th at 11:30 open, because WOU is partnering with Open Oregon to bring Robin DeRosa for a 90-minute presentation, to wrap up Open Education Week. Robin is a thought leader in the field of open education and co-founded the [Open Pedagogy Notebook](#). She has indicated this presentation is appropriate for faculty and administrators alike, and there will be plenty of time for questions.

Kudos to WOU's second cohort of OER Stipend Awardees:

- Miyuki Arimoto, Criminal Justice
- Ya-Feng Chen, Education & Leadership
- Melanie Landon-Hays, Education & Leadership
- Melissa Kelley, Biology
- Jeff Templeton, Earth/Physical Sciences

These faculty members will work to adopt, adapt, or create OER resources in preparation for the 2021-2022 school year.

Funding is available each year. The next call for proposals is slated for Fall 2021.

For more information about any of these opportunities, please contact Sue Kunda at the library.

4. Wolf Connection System. Student Success and Advising will be offering a WCS Update Training next Thursday, January 14th from 3pm to 4pm via Zoom. Here is the Zoom link to participate in the training: <https://wou-edu.zoom.us/j/5343589799>

On the agenda:

1. A brief review of the new look of WCS.
2. Personal appointment links! You will be able to send a link to students that will take them directly to your appointment scheduler in WCS allowing them to bypass several steps in setting up an appointment. We will cover how to best utilize these new links.
3. Utilizing features of WCS to enhance your advising practices.
4. Q & A - Niki Weight and Kelly Rush will be available to answer any questions you might have about new and existing features.

If you are unable to attend the training it will be recorded and available on the SSA website. For any additional questions or assistance, please send them to wolfconnectionsystem@wou.edu.