

PURE 2019-2020 Annual Activities Report

(Program for Undergraduate Research Experiences)

authored by

Dr. Gregory Zobel, Director, 2019-2020
with Dr. Xiaopeng Gong, Director, 2020-2023

Table of Contents

Program for Undergraduate Research Experiences.....	1
Introduction	3
Personnel	3
PURE’s Executive Committee 2019-20	3
PURE’s Executive Committee 2019-2020	4
Student Workers	4
PURE Insights Journal Activities.....	5
Academic Excellence Showcase Activities	5
AES Planning Committee	5
Student Registration and Session Request Technology Revision.....	5
Student Content & Abstracts Gone Digital.....	5
Employing Digital Session Scheduler, SCHED, for ease of use during event	5
Willamette Promise at AES	6
Committee Service	6
Website.....	6
Print/proceedings publication.....	6
Showcase held on 28 May.....	6
PURE General Program Activities	8
SURE Fall.....	8
Searches Conducted	8
Proposals submitted	8
PURE Office Space.....	8
On-campus partnerships	8
PURE 2019-20 Budget Overview	8
PURE: Meeting 2019-2020 Goals	9
SWOT Analysis.....	9
Strengths	9
Weaknesses.....	9
Opportunities	9
Threats.....	10
Goals	10

Introduction

With COVID-19, 2020 was an unprecedented year for the world, WOU, and PURE. Social distancing as well as safety and health concerns made it impossible to proceed as we have in the past. I struggled with family health concerns and the eventual death of my partner. Fortunately, and in spite of these “through the looking glass” events, the PURE Board, Incoming Director Dr. Gong, and amazing Library staff Sue Kunda and Stewart Baker made a virtual AES possible with very short notice.

When I started on this report in June with Dr. Gong, I thought we might be pivoting back to an approach we had that was pre-COVID. However, in mid-August, it is clear that for 2021, AES will most likely be relying and building upon the rapid innovation, creativity, and insights that made Virtual AES 2020 possible. Given this, I believe this report’s greatest use is to document the transitional phase that 2019-2020 represents as well as the foundations for PURE and AES’s New World Order in our pandemic-shaped institution.

Personnel

PURE’s Executive Committee 2019-20

REPRESENTATIVE	AREA	STATUS	TERM START (active start date)	TERM END	Term	Discipline/Program
Megan Patton-Lopez	COE	VOTING	1 July 2019	30 June 2022	1st	Health and Ex. Sci.
Xiaopeng Gong	COE	VOTING	1 July 2018 (11 December 2015)	30 June 2021	2nd	DEL
Andrea Emerson	COE	VOTING	1 July 2019	30 June 2022	1	DEL
Joshua Daniels	CLAS	VOTING	1 July 2018	30 June 2021	1st	Hum: English
Rebecca McCannell	CLAS	VOTING	1 July 2017 (November 2017)	30 June 2020	1st	Creative Art: Art
Feier Hou	CLAS	VOTING	1 July 2019	30 June 2022	1	NSM: Chemistry
Margaret Manoogian	CLAS	VOTING	1 July 2017 (November 2017)	30 June 2020	1st	Behavioral Sciences: Gerontology
Sue Kunda	LMS	VOTING	1 July 2017	30 June 2020	2st	Library

			(19 February 2015)			
Eric Dickey	STAFF	VOTING	1 July 2019	30 June 2022	1	Grants
VACANT	At-Large/Community	VOTING				
Adry Clark	At-Large/Community	VOTING	1 July 2017 (November 2017)	30 June 2020	1st	Service Learning & Career Development
Gavin Keulks	Honors Program Director	VOTING		Indeterminate		Honors (English)
Maren Anderson	Managing Editor, PURE Insights	VOTING	1 January 2020	31 Dec 2023	1st	English
Greg Zobel	Director	VOTING – only for tie breaks	1 July 2018	30 June 2021		PURE/AES; DEL

PURE's Executive Committee 2019-2020

The Board's membership in 2019-2020 expanded a bit in order to be more inclusive of staff on campus as well as to balance representation between CLAS and CoE. This membership shift represents changes made by the Board to the Bylaws to add one seat each for Staff membership and the College of Education. For 2020-2021, the previously vacant At-Large/Community seat will be filled by Lindsey Cochran.

Student Workers

In 2019-20, PURE was supported by CiP intern, Hailey Silberfarb, who supported PURE in Winter and Spring term. She engaged in outreach, infrastructure support, content creation, and coordinating with MARCOM, the print shop, and faculty. We also had one student worker, Chloe Miller, who was our CiP student intern from 2017-2018; Chloe also helped with PURE, SURE, and AES in 2018-2019. She provided support through Winter and Spring terms.

Their activities included, but were not limited to:

- Recruiting student participation
- Presenting during the Fall SURE event
- Developing multiple communication strategies
- Helping transition AES to an online platform
- Creating website content

- Supporting brainstorming strategies

Costs

CiP compensated Hailey for her efforts. Chloe was paid \$585.00 in total for her work.

Other Support for PURE

There was incalculable support from the library, particularly Sue Kunda and Stewart Baker, in transitioning AES to an online format at the WOU Library's Digital Commons. In addition to their efforts, they also had student workers supporting their efforts to make AES 2020 happen.

PURE Insights Journal Activities

PURE Insights has continued to publish actively, recruit submissions from students and faculty, and clarify submission processes and requirements. Maren Anderson of the English Department assumed Editorship effective 1 January 2020 from Paula Baldwin.

Academic Excellence Showcase Activities

AES Planning Committee

There was literally no need for the traditional AES planning committee to meet as we transitioned over to virtual AES. The key participants were:

- Sue Kunda, Library
- Stewart Baker, Library
- Xiaopeng Gong, Incoming PURE Director
- Gregory Zobel, Pure Director

Student Registration and Session Request Technology Revision

For 2018-19, a new student registration and session request system was created by Camila Gabaldon. However, once the Board decided to hold a virtual AES in 2020, this system proved that it was not applicable for the virtual system. As such, we closed access and used the WOU Digital Commons system (managed by Sue and Stewart from the Library) to register participants. If AES 2021 is held face-to-face, it would be wise to use this technology. Digital Commons may potentially support another virtual AES, when needs arise.

Student Content & Abstracts Gone Digital

As AES 2020 was virtual, all of the presentations, posters, and content for 2020 was digital.

Employing Digital Session Scheduler, SCHED, for ease of use during event

For 2018-19, we had used SCHED, a digital session scheduler for the event; we planned to use it for 2020. However, given the conference's virtual nature, this was put on hold. If AES 2021 is held face-to-face, it would be wise to use this technology.

Willamette Promise at AES

Given the low participation in 2019 AES from Willamette Promise (WP), the stakeholders determined to not try to have WP attend AES 2020. It turns out this was good timing. If PURE plans to continue working with WP in the future, then it should probably be in an approach that differs from that of 2018 and 2019; i.e. trying to bring WP students to campus on AES day was too awkward and unpredictable to manage effectively and efficiently.

Committee Service

The PURE Director served on several committees during 2019-20: a non-voting seat on IRB and a voting seat on the Outstanding Student Award Committee.

Website

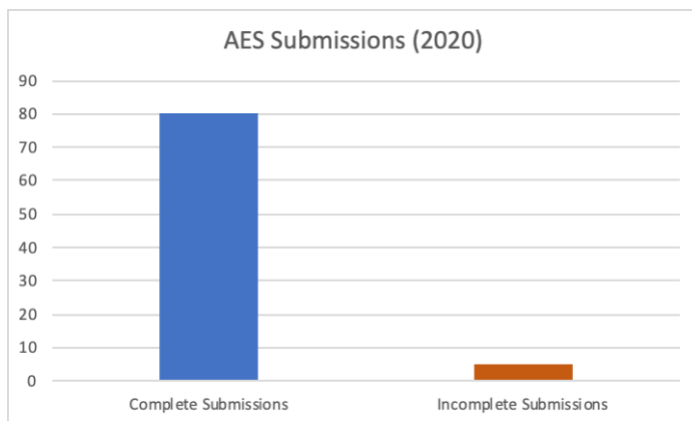
The website for PURE continues to exist and act as a key point of communication around and for AES and PURE. However, management of the site and content creation demand significant attention to keep things going. In the future, this report suggest that work should be delegated to a student intern, be rolled back, or have another content publication/management plan developed with the PURE Board.

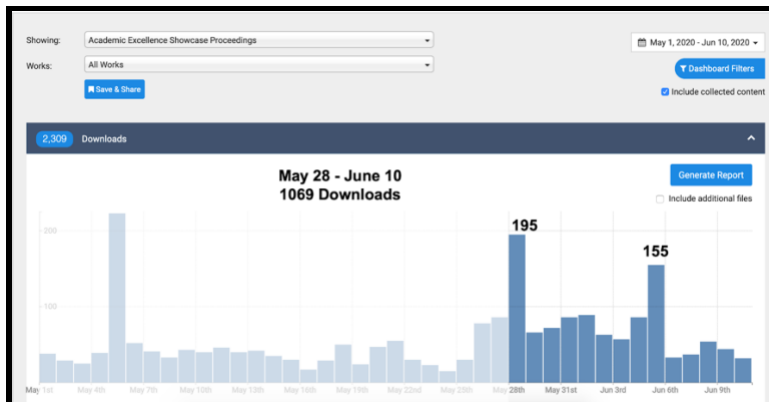
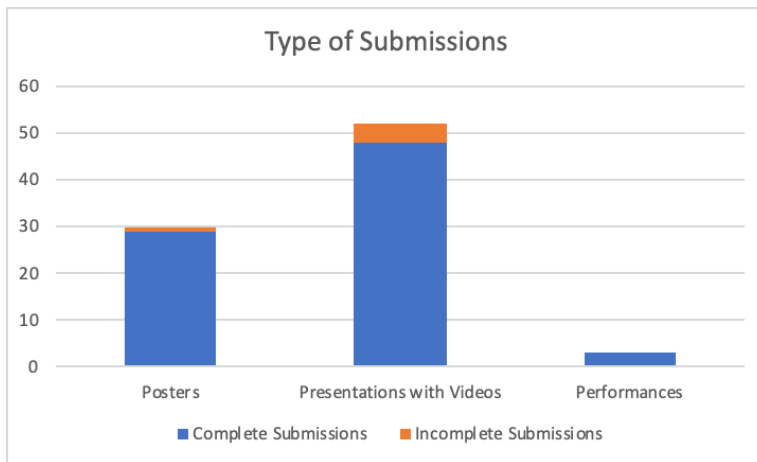
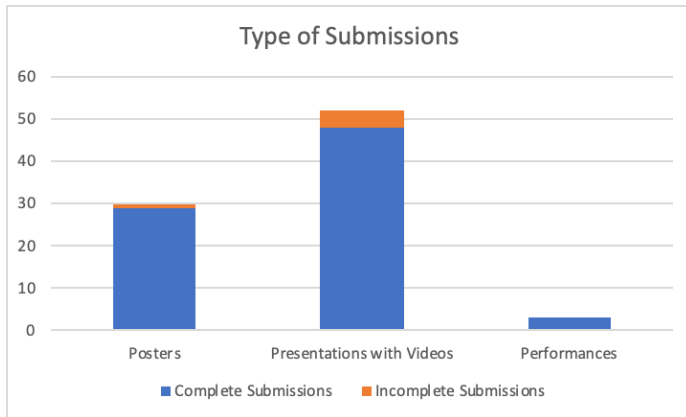
Print/proceedings publication

There were no printed proceedings this year.

Showcase held on 28 May

AES 2020 was held on 28 May 2020. This meant that all the content on the website went live and was accessible on the 28th and for two weeks into June. The following charts below show the important statistics around Virtual AES activity this past year. Given the new, online approach as well as COVID-19's impact on WOU—not to mention the whole university's shift to distance learning—it would be an error to attempt to compare AES 2020 with prior years.





The notable takeaways are that there were at least 80 presentations—over half of those employed video. In terms of downloads, on AES day, there were 195 downloads, and those downloads continued over the next two weeks. As such, there was clearly lower level but sustained interest in the content. The total AES downloads between May 28 and June 10 were 1,069. Notably, about 75% of AES submissions stays in Digital Commons permanently, which is almost three times as much as AES presentations

recorded in DC in the year before. Therefore, WOU 2020 student scholarship as shown through virtual AES turns out to be more visible to the campus and global community.

PURE General Program Activities

SURE Fall

Following our efforts in 2018-19, we hosted a Sharing Undergraduate Research Experiences (SURE) Session during Fall term. In spite of outreach efforts and offering free food, attendance was limited to about 16 individuals: most of them from a single course. Thus, while the event was meaningful, it was clear that SURE was not an effective use of time or resources in the long run.

Given this, we cancelled the SURE event planned for Winter.

Searches Conducted

In Spring 2020, Incoming Director Dr. Gong finalized and completed the PURE Board's search for new members. Three members will step down in July 2020 from PURE committee (1 LMS, 1 staff, 1 community representative), and four members will join the committee (1 COE, 2 community, 1 staff representative).

Proposals submitted

During Fall term, a proposal for funding student research and travel grants was submitted to the UBAC. In spite of UBAC's support for the proposal, President Fuller determined that it would be more effective for PURE to reach out to the WOU Foundation for support for these efforts. I reached out to the WOU Foundation, but I received no response.

PURE has also reapplied for a CIP Internship for 2020-21.

PURE Office Space

PURE maintains its office in the Old CoE building for storage.

On-campus partnerships

We worked to develop strong relationships with the Grants office during Fall 2019. Eric Dickey guided me through multiple possible grant sources and proposals, and I established relationships and grant language for several grants. However, my partner's declining health in late Fall and early Winter terms made it impossible to move this work ahead.

PURE 2019-20 Budget Overview

Of its \$7,640 budget, PURE only spent \$4,143.98. Thus, we were left with \$3,496.02.

This savings is due to not having to pay for all the expenses of an on-site, face-to-face conference.

A copy of the monthly PURE transaction report is attached to this report.

PURE: Meeting 2019-2020 Goals

PURE has continued and met its goal of having PURE Insights as a high-quality undergraduate peer-review journal on and off campus.

PURE's online presence has been improved through simplifying and clarifying some content and navigation issues. However, it is still relatively stagnant. The role of PURE's web presence needs to be reviewed in 2020-21.

PURE's student outreach, aside from AES, has continued to be weak in spite of multiple publicity, recruiting, and communication efforts. The PURE Board needs to review and consider how to increase effective communications with students. Specifically, connecting First Year Seminars to PURE and AES would be a wise step.

SWOT Analysis

Strengths

PURE's Board is robust, flexible, supportive, and engaged. Their knowledge, responsiveness, and support make it easy to shift and adjust when encountering challenges like COVID-19 and Virtual AES. The depth and variety of experience with research, student engagement, pedagogies, and content on the board also make it an invaluable resource for brainstorming, development, and possible approaches.

Weaknesses

Simply stated, there's not enough time to pursue all the different possible activities. When pursuing grants, and their longer timelines, almost every large grant PURE could get in a Director's first or second year wouldn't be funded until the Director's third and final year. This makes it difficult to want to pursue a grant—unless you plan to pursue a second term. Given the importance of external funding for future activities, this will need to be addressed by changing the nature of the Director's position.

Opportunities

Given the 2020 Virtual AES online experience, and the community's response, a number of new potentials for collaborating with WOU's Digital Commons have appeared and been proven possible. Hence, it may be wise for PURE to continue working with DC throughout the year—and not just for AES—to promote undergraduate research in a variety of media (posters, videos, and text). Additionally, connecting *PURE Insights* more deeply and directly with online AES materials at DC, as suggested by the *PI* Editor, Maren Anderson, is a smart next step. As discussed above, the virtual 2020 AES provides opportunities for more WOU students to showcase their talents, scholarship, creative projects with the global community. It also provides opportunities to redefine and revision this annual celebration and event.

Threats

The greatest threat PURE faces is time. With COVID-19, internal changes at WOU regarding financial stability and labor, as well as many faculty transitioning to part- or full-time distance learning, many community members are overloaded with demands and changes. Our students face similarly challenging situations. Thus, in the midst of all these demands—not to mention the cultural and social upheaval—PURE and AES must position themselves as relevant. With limited people, time, attention, and resources, this is the greatest challenge.

Goals

Based on the SWOT analysis, the challenges as well as opportunities with COVID-19, PURE's work in the year of 2020-2021, as determined by Dr. Gong and the PURE Board, will focus on a few aspects:

- (1). Continue to advocate for undergraduate research through hosting seminars/webinars, research talks throughout the year. While recognizing AES as an important platform and time frame to celebrate and showcase WOU students' various scholarship and accomplishment, we need to continue to explore other routes to necessitates students' skills, knowledge and readiness for research;
- (2). Make data-informed decisions. Conduct campus-wide surveys to identify and analyze factors that support, encourage and promote student research, and possible barriers that keep students, divisions, disciplines from actively engaging in AES and other research-related endeavors and events; Understand the challenges and opportunities of a virtual, digital AES, benefits and drawbacks of DC as a platform, and plan for future virtual or hybrid AES, when needs arise;
- (3). Examine the current two AES submission systems: the one created by Camila, and Digital Commons, discuss and explore possibilities of a flexible, manageable plan that works for both a face to face and online AES.

Monthly Transactions Report - Index Specific

Western Oregon University

Index: PRO977 - PURE

Fund: 001001 - General Fund

Org: 201255 - PRO PURE

Prog: 15001 - Project Research

Actv: <NONE> - <NONE>

Account	Transaction Date	Rule Code	Document Code	Transaction Description	Budget Activity	Transaction Activity	Encumbrance Activity
10501 - Student Pay - Regular Pay	2020-02-28	6HGR	V0009823	HR Payroll 2020 MO 2 0		45.00	
	2020-03-31	6HGR	V0009890	HR Payroll 2020 MO 3 0		56.25	
	2020-05-29	6HGR	V0009994	HR Payroll 2020 MO 5 0		157.50	
	2020-06-30	6HGR	V0010042	HR Payroll 2020 MO 6 0		326.25	
10501 - Student Pay - Regular Pay - Summary						585.00	
10988 - OPE Student Other	2020-02-28	6ERE	V0009824	HR Payroll 2020 MO 2 0		0.35	
	2020-03-31	6ERE	V0009891	HR Payroll 2020 MO 3 0		0.44	
	2020-05-29	6ERE	V0009995	HR Payroll 2020 MO 5 0		1.25	
	2020-06-30	6ERE	V0010043	HR Payroll 2020 MO 6 0		2.61	
10988 - OPE Student Other - Summary						4.65	
20000 - Services & Supplies Expense	2019-07-01	1BUD	JZ000419	CEC - initial FY20 budget load	8,000.00		
	2019-11-07	1BPA	JZ000433	CEM - bud adj 4.5% S&S reduction	(360.00)		
20000 - Services & Supplies Expense - Summary						7,640.00	
24602 - Duplicating & Copying Expense	2020-03-05	3SSJ	J0117260	MKB-Print Shop Invoices 20-1216		235.85	
	2020-03-12	3SSJ	J0117329	MKB-Print Shop Invoices 20-1267		100.40	
	2020-04-01	3SSJ	J0117436	MKB-PrintShop Invoices 20-1267		100.40	
	2020-05-13	3SSJ	J0117782	MKB-Print Shop Invoices 20-1297		66.00	
24602 - Duplicating & Copying Expense - Summary						502.65	
28601 - Conference Registration Fees	2020-06-22	IPNI	Z0033938	COUNCIL ON UNDERGRADUATE		300.00	
28601 - Conference Registration Fees - Summary						300.00	
28612 - Hosting Groups & Guests	2019-09-30	3SSJ	J0115893	bls:E08061 PURE Meeting		151.45	
	2019-10-28	3SSJ	J0116102	bls:E08094 Sharing		130.00	

Monthly Transactions Report - Index Specific

Western Oregon University

Account	Transaction Date	Rule Code	Document Code	Transaction Description	Budget Activity	Transaction Activity	Encumbrance Activity
28612 - Hosting Groups & Guests				Undergrad Exp			
28612 - Hosting Groups & Guests - Summary						281.45	
28901 - Dues & Memberships - Program Related	2019-09-05	IPNI	Z0028913	Council on Undergraduate Research		900.00	
	2020-04-24	IPNI	Z0033227	COUNCIL ON UNDERGRADUATE		900.00	
28901 - Dues & Memberships -Program Related - Summary						1,800.00	
28931 - Selling & Marketing Costs	2020-02-29	IPNI	Z0032466	4imprint Inc		670.23	
28931 - Selling & Marketing Costs - Summary						670.23	
Revenue Total					0.00	0.00	0.00
Expense Total					7,640.00	4,143.98	
PRO977 - PURE - Net Total					-7,640.00	-4,143.98	