

University Council
Meeting Minutes
May 17, 2019
Pastega Room, RWEC

Present: Rex Fuller, Laurie Burton, Scott Beaver, Curtis Campbell, Kathy Cassity, Paul Disney, Gary Dukes, Tina Fuchs, Mark Girod, Ryan Hagemann, Rip Horsey, Ana Karaman, Bill Kernan, Dave McDonald, Erin McDonough, Sue Monahan, Janeanne Rockwell-Kincanon, Adele Schepige, Abdus Shahid, Michael Smith, Linda Stonecipher, Judy Vanderburg, LouAnn Vickers (Ex-Officio), Niki Weight, Rob Winningham

Absent: Evelyn Guzman, Richard Kavanagh

Updates, Progress Reports and Discussion Items

- **Transfer Initiatives**

Kristin Mauro, transfer specialist, provided an overview of WOU's efforts to create seamless pathways for transfer students. The Degree Partnership Program (DPP) is the infrastructure that supports dual enrollment at WOU and the community colleges (CC). Faculty develop 4-year curriculum plans with the CC partners and WOU creates program-to-program articulations.

Mauro shared information on the status of WOU's partnership agreements with seven of Oregon's 17 community colleges, noting that the overall goal is to establish agreements with all CC's. A WOU Articulation Agreement Manual was also created which includes an agreement template. The manual can be found on the [Transfer Resources](#) web page.

Academic Affairs purchased a license for the Transfer Evaluation System (TES), an interactive resource for course data, which provides a quick way to locate courses and equivalencies between institutions.

President Fuller noted, that as a reflection of [2017 HB 2998](#), Western's goal is to be the most forward looking, transfer friendly university.

Student Success and Advising director Niki Weight stated that the advising office is currently in the process of hiring a new academic success advisor who will be a direct resource for transfer students once they are at WOU. Students will work with their faculty advisor as well, but this will be a specific resource for our transfers and potential transfers.

- **Strategic Enrollment Management Plan (SEMP)**

Vice President for Student Affairs Gary Dukes provided an overview of Western's Strategic Enrollment Management Plan 2019-24. The plan is in the final review phase and will be rolling out soon.



Dr. Dukes noted the fall 2019 goal for domestic freshmen students is 805. While we are currently at 780, continued efforts are being made to encourage students who have applied and been accepted to confirm their attendance. Among those efforts is an email sent each week from President Fuller to this group of students, encouraging them to complete the enrollment process and to sign up to attend a SOAR event. Additionally, family packages were also sent to over 2500 families. If families noted that Spanish was the preferred language, materials were sent in both English and Spanish.

In reviewing the SEMP, Dukes also noted the goals set for graduate and international students as well as retention. The SEMP committee members will continue to focus on undergraduate retention rates and identify at-risk areas of enrollment and retention. Dukes noted that because Sophomore to Junior retention has been low, this is a specific area of focus for his team.

- **HECC Data Snapshots**

The Higher Education Coordinating Commission (HECC) has published data snapshots for all community colleges and universities in Oregon. Dr. Sue Monahan provided an overview of [WOU's snapshot](#).

Dr. Monahan explained that the total enrollment of 8927 noted for WOU includes our Willamette Promise students, which also explains why it's noted that 39% of our students are non-degree seeking and <18 years. To clarify, she mentioned that "non-degree seeking" percentage also include students who are earning certificates or endorsements.

The percentage of Hispanic/Latinx students reflected in the snapshot (22%) actually accelerates our opportunity to become a Hispanic Serving Institution (HIS). Dr. Shahid will confirm if the numbers HECC has used will be reported to IPEDS.

- **Strategic Planning Scorecard**

Laurie Burton reviewed the [Strategic Initiatives Scorecard](#), created through the efforts of the 2018 UC retreat. She pointed out the progress noted on each initiative and encouraged the council to continuing providing updates. She also mentioned that initiatives that are "ongoing" are coded as such in the completion column.

President Fuller will be asking members of his cabinet to review the grid and begin conversations with key people to keep the momentum going. He noted that this type of scorecard is helpful for our Board of Trustees and also helps develop his fall State of the University address.

- **Fall Retreat – 1st University Council Meeting for 2019-2020**

Council members were asked to hold September 27, 2019 for the Fall Retreat and kick-off meeting for our 2019-2020 academic year. A location is still being determined.

- **Concluding Comments**

President Fuller provided an update on the progress of the DPT program. In order to continue moving forward, we will need to get an amendment to ORS 352.011 approved by the legislature. This 2017 statute established Western, Southern, and Eastern Oregon Universities as “comprehensive universities” that can offer degrees through the master’s level. HECC has interpreted this as limiting us to master’s degrees. Once this statute is amended, we will move forward with getting approval from HECC. A work session to amend the language is scheduled for 1pm on Monday, May 20 with the senate ed committee. If it passes, it will then go to the senate floor. If the senate passes the amendment, it will go back to the house for final approval. This would provide opportunity for the three universities to offer doctoral degrees.

Ryan Hagemann thanked everyone for their participation in another successful TRU day.

Meeting was adjourned at 10:20am.