

## FACULTY SENATE'S GOALS FOR THE UPCOMING YEAR

### *Faculty Senate advisory subcommittees*

(subcommittee > recommendations to Faculty Senate > Faculty Senate action)

The new **General Education (GE)** committee will start fall term and will provide oversight for Western Oregon University's general education program. To start, the GE committee will review and align special course designation (D, LACC, Q and W) guidelines with the recently adopted LEAP **learning** outcomes and value rubrics. Over the next three years, the GE committee will receive assessment data from the Assessment Facilitation Steering Committee on current general education courses, and, at the end of the three-year period (end of Spring Term 2018), revisit the selection of **General Education Learning Outcomes (GELOs)** based on analysis of the gathered assessment data

The **Academic Requirements Committee** will be charged with the initial analysis on creating an option for a general Associate of Arts degree, per House Bill 3335A.

The **Curriculum, Graduate** and **Honors** committees will continue their work of reviewing curricular matters, with the Honors committee serving in a review and advisory capacity with regard to WOU's academic Honors program.

### *Faculty Senate and University level committees*

Faculty Senate will recommend six faculty to serve on the new **faculty led Assessment Facilitation Steering Committee (AFSC)**, based in the Office of Academic Affairs. These faculty will report back to Faculty Senate during the academic year. The AFSC will advise the Faculty Senate GE committee as well as the University Provost on assessment matters and assessment data collection, especially with respect to the accreditation process.

### *Faculty Senate at large*

Faculty Senate at large will continue to provide a forum to lead faculty in fulfilling their responsibilities in the shared governance of the university, and in particular, will make recommendations to faculty and administration on policies to improve the learning environment.

**DRAFT FACULTY SENATE MISSION STATEMENT**

(to be approved during our first fall Faculty Senate meeting)

The mission of the Faculty Senate is to lead faculty in fulfilling their responsibilities in the shared governance of the university and to represent faculty interests to university and community stakeholders. The Faculty Senate serves as a liaison between faculty and administration. Responsibilities include the following:

- ensuring that academic freedom is encouraged and protected;
- overseeing curriculum development that promotes student learning in alignment with identified university student learning goals and outcomes;
- participating in the review and implementation of the strategic plan of the university;
- informing faculty about university policies, procedures, and substantive changes made by the administration; and
- making recommendations to faculty and administration on policies to improve the learning environment.

**BOARD OF TRUSTEES INTERACTIONS WITH FACULTY SENATE**

The WOU Board of Trustees is part of the approval process for proposed new programs at WOU. Proposed new programs will route through the WOU curriculum process (Academic Division > Faculty Senate > College Dean > Provost > President) and then, if approved at the internal levels, will route to the WOU Board and the Provost's Council before going on to the HECC and then the Northwest Commission. For example, in 2014-2015 the Deaf Studies and Professional Studies division proposed an extensive new Deaf and Hard of Hearing Education degree that was approved by the WOU Board of Trustees.

We imagine the WOU Board of Trustees may be asked to comment on, support or implement policy changes initiated or recommended by the Faculty Senate. For example, the Tobacco-free WOU proposal was endorsed by Faculty Senate (and many others) during the 2014-2015 academic year, and then implemented by the University President.