

To: Faculty Senate
From: Social Science Division
Date: May 18, 2017
RE: Social Science 30 60 90 WOU Way Resolution

The members of the Social Science Division formally declare that we have no confidence in the process of current curricular changes in the 30-60-90 “WOU Way” and no confidence in the administrators who have proposed and mandated these changes.

While we acknowledge Provost Scheck's statement and apology to Faculty Senate on May 9 as a gesture towards restoring shared governance, and while we also acknowledge that there may be some limited issues on which immediate and unilateral executive action can be rationalized:

We do not accept that the current curricular re-design is such an issue. Administration has provided no clear, consistent, or compelling reason why this process could not have been conducted in concert with faculty, whether as part of an ad hoc process or through established governing bodies.

At a minimum, administration should have announced the re-design to faculty in advance and been willing and able to answer questions regarding the reasons for the re-design and to offer explanations for the nature of the process.

We note further that the call for reform of general education in the Strategic Plan was already being fulfilled by a faculty-led and initiated process in the Faculty Senate General Education Committee. Senior administration were fully aware and informed of this process. And yet at no point did anyone from administration confer with, or attempt to coordinate their initiative with, the members of that committee or the Faculty Senate Executive.

If nothing else, the past month of debate and discussion on this matter has made the following clear: while, ultimately, it may be possible to design a degree structure that, from a student perspective, appears as independent “slices” of courses, from a faculty and management perspective, any re-design of the degree structure is going to have unintended consequences, trade-offs, and implications for the quality of education at WOU, both as a whole and in specific programs, including, but not limited to, the general education program.

As a move toward the substantive restoration of shared governance on curriculum, we call for the General Education Task Force to be given wide latitude to raise questions and make proposals regarding degree structure and the implementation of curriculum.