

- **Freshman & Transfer SOAR, Tuesday August 29:**

As referenced at the May 23rd Faculty Senate meeting--because of student patterns on connecting with the university, in addition to the usual early summer SOARS, we have scheduled a new SOAR in late August, 8 days after the solar eclipse. **I ask that we take inventory of who will be in the area – especially faculty -- that would be able to come to campus to assist with advising students in the major.**

- **General Education Task Force:** As Senate President Schepige has already reported, the general education task force has been meeting.
- **Academic Strategic Plan:** As part of follow-through on the launch of the university strategic plan, academic affairs will also develop a roadmap for moving academics forward. The academic leadership group will be taking the lead on this; however, this work will entail substantial involvement from academic units and public review of our current academic portfolio of degrees, certificates, minors, and academic student services. I wish to have Faculty Senate closely involved in this process and ask that the Senate Executive Committee work with me on establishing an Academic Prioritization working group either via current committee structure or a new committee that will provide recommendations on how we prioritize programming.
- **Degree completion discussions with Chemeketa Community College:** The first annual meeting of Chemeketa and WOU chairs will occur on July 27 at the Chemeketa Center for Business and Industry in Salem. Dave McDonald has been taking the lead arranging this meeting. The goal of the meeting is to identify ways for Chemeketa and WOU to collaborate to provide degree pathways for students. We will look at ways to connect our degree programs, smooth transitions for students, offer WOU upper division courses at Chemeketa, and increase meaningful academic connections.
- **HB 2998:** At time of writing this report, HB 2998 (the “student transfer bill of rights”—see link at Faculty Senate docket) received unanimous approval by the Oregon Senate and will be off to the Governor for signature; it also received unanimous approval by the Oregon House of Representatives. The work we are doing with general education review, transfer pathways with Chemeketa (that can be expanded to other community colleges) and the examination of our programs through the lens of the 30-60-90 initiative will position WOU quite soundly with HB 2998. Indeed, it is the academic leadership team’s belief that WOU can be at the front of the wave of change that will occur across the state’s public colleges and universities.