

IFS Report to WOU Faculty Senate
March 12, 2019

On March 1 and 2, Interinstitutional Faculty Senate met at Oregon Tech: Portland Metro Campus. Tad Shannon and Leanne Merrill represented Western. Here is a brief summary of the discussion:

- IFS was welcomed by an administrator at the OIT: Portland Metro campus, and we discussed their growth in the Portland metro area and how they have grown their satellite campus successfully.
- Veronica Dujon from HECC gave us an update on the work that OTAC (Oregon Transfer and Articulation Committee) has completed and is currently involved with. They have approved the Biology Major Transfer Map, and English/Education/Business are next in line. Many thanks to Erin Baumgartner for her work with the Biology group, and Tad for his representation on OTAC. We also briefly discussed other legislative issues.
- We discussed several of the higher education bills currently in the legislature. We focused on bills that have progressed, either by having a public hearing or being passed by one of the houses. Those bills are:
 - [HB 2029 Accelerated Learning for College Credit](#)
 - [SB 800 Dual Credit in High Schools](#)
 - The two bills above appear to be related, and so we discussed them together. We discussed the issues presented in these bills but were unable to come to a consensus testimony because of the differing policies at our institutions. It is unclear how this bill would mesh with accreditation issues.
 - [HB 2651 Study of Redundant Academic Programs](#)
 - We discussed this and decided that it is important for 4-year university faculty to be flexible and willing to consider changes, but this bill seems to go against the decentralization efforts that have been going on since the dissolution of the OUS. We encouraged the legislature to wait until the market settles slightly more and take a longer-term view of higher education. We recommended that any such study should include community colleges as well as 4-years, and that such a study should address unmet needs in addition to redundancies.
 - [SB 3 Applied BA Degrees at Community Colleges](#)
 - Presidents and Provosts Councils took no stance on this, so IFS also took no stance. It is very likely to pass, so faculty should focus on how to impact its implementation in a way that is favorable to faculty and students at both community colleges and 4-years. It is important to know that the bill creates restrictive limits on where and who can offer the Applied Baccalaureates, and they will all need to be accredited by NWCCU as well.

- [HB 2030 Omnibus \(includes change in HECC Statutory Authority\)](#)
 - Senators desire more information about the nature of this bill; specifically, what sorts of authority HECC would gain if this passed.

In addition to these issues, we reported on events at our own campuses and collaborated on problem-solving around these issues.

Remember that you can visit oregonifs.org to see information about our meetings. Our next meeting is in mid-May at Southern Oregon University.

[Report prepared by Leanne Merrill.]