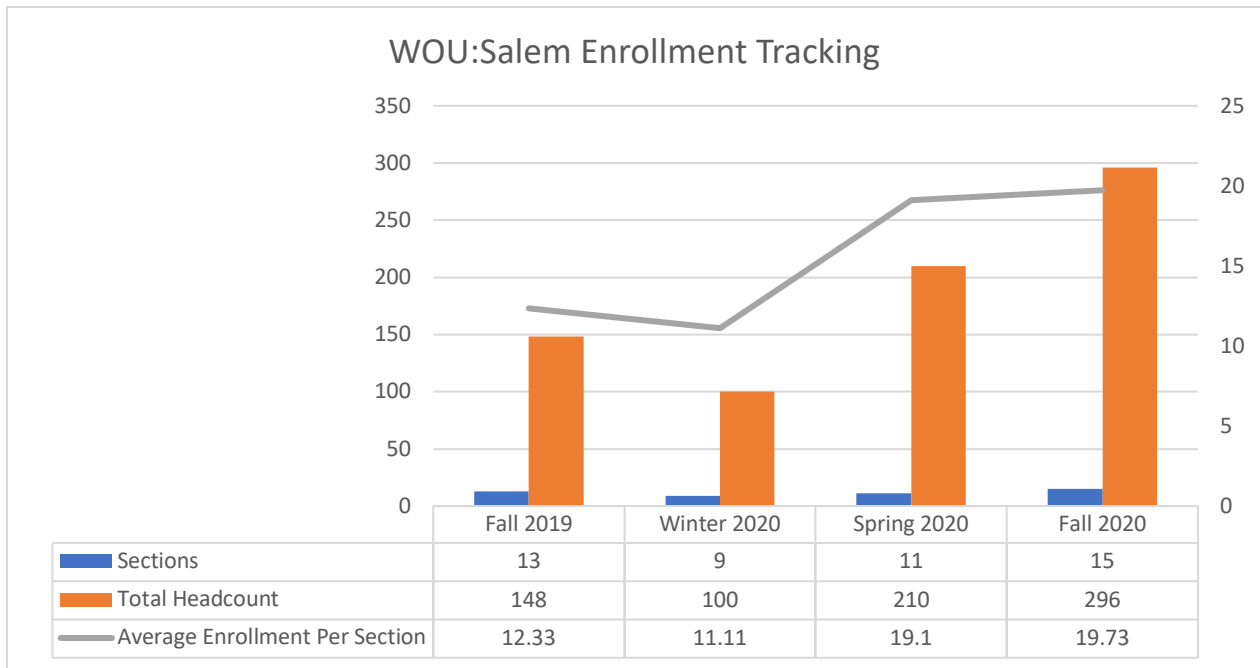Western Oregon UNIVERSITY

Provost Winningham's Faculty Senate Report

November 10, 2020

1. **WOU:Salem** Enrollment and course offerings continue to grow, despite COVID. WOU:Salem courses, having already been in hybrid format, transitioned smoothly to the fully online format (both synchronous and asynchronous). Average enrollments per section have maintained steady levels, while sections have increased.

WOU:Salem Enrollment Tracking

	Fall 2019	Winter 2020	Spring 2020	Fall 2020
Sections	13	9	11	15
Total Headcount	148	100	210	296
Average Enrollment Per Section	12.33	11.11	19.1	19.73

2. **Open Educational Resources (OER).** We have discussed open educational resources (OER) many times recently. Here is an analysis of the student savings based on this work that faculty have done. A huge thank you to all of the faculty who have or are currently creating an OER, this work would not have been possible without Sue Kunda's leadership.

Course	Number of (Projected) Students[1] 2020-2021				(Projected) Savings[2] 2020-2021	
	Fall	Winter	Spring	Summer	Total Savings	Savings/Student
BI 211, 315, 437		80			$14,720.00	$184.00
BI 101, 102				700	$63,088.00	$90.13
IS 340		50			$5,788.00	$115.76
ICS 112, 113, 114	25	25	25			
PSYCH 311			35		$2,971.00	$84.89
CH 450	25				$3,419.00	$136.76
MATH 110				210		
CJ 352	20	20	20	20	$15,540.00	$194.25
CJ 252	20	20	20	20	$16,319.60	$204.00
PSY 439	30			30	$4,477.50	$74.63
LING 310		40	40			
COM 325	25	25	25			
Total				1550	$126,323.10	$81.50

These significant savings experienced by students are the result of faculty receiving funding from the WOU OER Stipend Program for the 2020-2021 academic year.

[1]Several projects consisted of multiple faculty members and/or multiple courses, making it difficult to provide student numbers for individual quarters.

[2]Several projects weren't using a textbook for the 2019-2020 school year, so, technically, the proposal had no projected savings. The development of OER materials, however, allowed one of three things:

- A faculty member could hand off a course to multiple other faculty who had never taught the course and students wouldn't be required to purchase textbooks;

- Other faculty, who *were* using commercial textbooks could switch to open materials; or
- Students would have access to print materials in courses that previously had none.

3. **CircleIn.** Thanks to federal Cares Act funding, Academic Affairs is implementing CircleIn to help students overcome challenges that were identified in the Spring 2020 COVID-19 survey.

CircleIn was created to provide academically supportive connections to students, helping them accelerate their learning by being more productive in a collaborative, community-based digital learning environment. Backed by the National Science Foundation with an innovation grant, students use CircleIn is an easy-to-use studying app and website, where students can study online together and seek to help their classmates who are struggling before it is too late. The biggest influencers earn points, gifts and scholarships for positively engaging and supporting their community of classmates.

The beauty of CircleIn is that it is designed to be "hands off" for faculty. Although faculty can opt to use the tool to engage with students, it is designed for students to primarily benefit from engaging with each other without faculty intervention. The only thing faculty will need to do is encourage them to use it.

Implementation leads will be reaching out to tutoring center coordinators, librarians, faculty, and other stakeholders in the coming months. More information about CircleIn can be found on their website.

4. **E-Proctoring.** During Spring 2020, Academic Innovation reviewed several e-proctoring solutions, selecting Wise for a pilot. The pilot was intended to begin at the start of summer, however, delays to the contract's finalization pushed the pilot towards the third session. Dr. Amy Harwell, Online Professional Learning Community Chair, piloted the tool with 45 students and found the vendor responsive and the tool sufficient. Based on this experience, we would like to expand the Wise pilot to more courses and vet it as a potential permanent solution for WOU.

Wise matched with WOU for the following reasons:

1. Wise uses Microsoft's facial recognition software to flag suspicious activity for faculty review. There is concern that using live proctors would stoke testing anxiety, as remote monitoring differs significantly from in-person monitoring in the way the student experiences the proctor's attention and surveillance.
2. Faculty members may observe the students in real-time during the exam. In terms of safeguarding student privacy, restricting those who may monitor to instructors they know, rather than 3rd party employees, was preferred.
3. Wise is LMS neutral, launching in a browser tab rather than within the LMS. This is critical as WOU uses two LMSs during the Canvas transition and reduces the amount of work for faculty members who will not need to configure settings within the LMS for exams.
4. Wise also includes browser tab monitoring, an additional layer of integrity for exams.

5. Wise's price point is superior to its competitors. Wise charges $15 per student per term, regardless of the number of exams the student takes. Other services, such as ProctorU charges $15-30 per exam.

5. Sponsored Projects Office. In 2020, the Sponsored Projects Office helped submit 55 external funding proposals. The proposals were led by 41 different faculty and staff members from across campus and totaled $19,817,837 in requested funding. WOU proposals had a high success rate of 54.5% and we were awarded $12,787,316 in external funding, most of which came from federal and state agencies.

The Sponsored Projects Office produced a Fall 2020 newsletter which contains a review of proposal activity and highlights grants from across campus: https://wou.edu/research/files/2020/10/Fall-2020-Newsletter-1.pdf

The 2020-2021 year is off to a strong start: 23 external funding proposals have been submitted totaling $4,766,973 in requested funds. We're seeing a promising upward trend compared to last year at this time, as our submission rate has increased by 35.3%.

6. Child Development Center (CDC). WOU's CDC obtained an Emergency Child Care License through the Oregon Department of Education, which enabled them to open 3 preschool classrooms this fall. They are currently serving 23 children and nearly half of the preschoolers are children of current WOU students. The CDC received a Preschool Promise grant from the Oregon Department of Education. This $224,000 grant is funding 18 preschool students for 7 hours a day, 5 days a week. The CDC also received a Polk County Emergency Child Care grant that is supporting important upgrades to their outdoor and indoor learning spacing, including new fencing, technology replacement, playground equipment, classroom materials and supplies, gardening supplies, and portable awnings.