

March 8, 2022 Faculty Senate Report by Interim President Kenton

Thank you again for your service, it is very much appreciated.

Indoor mask mandates are ending March 12, 2022, though they will continue for those working in the student health center, the child development center and also for those riding on Wolf Ride. Masks are still welcome for anyone who wishes to continue wearing them. But, we must have consistent policies on campus and we will not be able to enforce variable policies by department or class. I know some of you still have concerns, but to date, we have always followed CDC guidelines and this change is no exception. As always, we will continue to monitor the situation and make adjustments as needed.

Why Cloth Masks Might Not Be Enough as Omicron Spreads

Time it takes to transmit an infectious dose of Covid-19

		PERSON NOT INFECTED IS WEARING			
		Nothing	Cloth mask	Surgical mask	N95
PERSON INFECTED IS WEARING	Nothing	15 min.	20 min.	30 min.	2.5 hours
	Cloth mask	20 min.	27 min.	40 min.	3.3 hours
	Surgical mask	30 min.	40 min.	1 hour	5 hours
	N95	2.5 hours	3.3 hours	5 hours	25 hours

It will take 25 hours for an infectious dose of Covid-19 to transmit between people wearing non-fit-tested N95 respirators. If they're using tightly sealed N95s—where only 1% of particles enter the facepiece—they will have 2,500 hours of protection.

Note: Results published in Spring 2021. The CDC expects the Omicron variant to spread more easily.
Source: ACGIH's Pandemic Response Task Force

With the departure of Erin McDonough and Marion Barnes, I have asked Paul Baldwin and Sarah Sheldrick if they could help with communications and marketing. Paula will be the Public Information Officer (PIO) for WOU and will attend President's Cabinet meetings so she is aware of and involved in any decisions as they are made. Sarah will focus on social media and marketing. They have both agreed to work .50 FTE until September 15, 2022 to assist with this work. I am excited about their ideas and energy and look forward to working with them in the coming months.

My plan is to take this opportunity to re-envision how we do marketing, communication and fund raising work at WOU. I am considering launching a search for a VP of University Relations, for a director of marketing and communication and a director of advancement and to have Government Relations, Alumni Relations and possibly events coordination also be part of this division. I would be curious as to your thoughts about this idea. Although I would launch the searches, we should have a new president named by April 20, 2022, thus my successor could then determine if they wish to use this structure or not and could select people to fill these roles if so inclined.

The Freedom Center is undergoing changes. Earlier this term the Student Senate voted to remove all previously appointed Board members for the Freedom Center Board even though the Board never officially met. The Student Senate is currently recruiting new Board members. Once that new Board is in place and up and running, they will likely want to select new leaders to operate the Freedom Center on campus. Currently Michaela Loggins is functioning as co-director of the Center as Makana Ripley resigned from this position earlier this term. Once we hire an Executive Director of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion, that person will become the advisor to the Freedom Center.

Last week we had a joint President's Cabinet meeting with Chemeketa Community College's leadership team. During this meeting Jessica Howard, Chemeketa's president and I signed a memorandum of understanding that will provide Chemeketa transfer degree graduates with GUARANTEED admission to WOU, junior standing, and completion status for all lower division general education units! This means if you complete your 2-year transfer degree at Chemeketa, you can then complete your Bachelor's Degree in just two more full-time years! Officially, the program is called, "Direct Connect." I'd like to repeat this process with all community colleges in Oregon as I recently learned that we have not been actively recruiting students at community colleges in the past few years. As the costs continue to grow, I expect that more and more students will choose to start their studies at a community college and then transfer to WOU.

March is Women's History Month – commemorating and encouraging the study, observance and celebration of the vital role of women in American history. Please join me in celebrating the amazing accomplishments of women during the month of March.