



Academic Town Hall: Portland-Metro

January 24, 2023

February 3, 2023

To: Dr. Mott

From: ASOIT-PM

Re: Follow-Up to Academic Town Hall

Dear Academic Affairs Leadership,

Thank you for attending the Town Hall meeting on Jan 24th and answering students' questions about their Portland-Metro academics concerns. Below are the major concerns presented and agreed commitments by Academic Affairs Leadership.

- Faculty will be present on campus more for scheduled courses as well as hold in-person office hours.
 - Many courses are being held virtually and those that are in-person often will offer a virtual link to students thereby reducing class size and learning synergy among peers.
 - Oregon Tech's "hands-on" education modality must be enforced.
 - Labs are not consistently being held on campus each week.
 - Office hours are not consistently held on campus with drop-in options available.
- Department chairs will make Portland-Metro campus visits at least once per term.
 - Visits should be announced by Chairs well in advance so students can come to campus to share concerns with Chairs. Communication methods should include email, PM Weekly e-Newsletters, and Oregon Tech App.
 - Department Chairs should visit classrooms, labs, and walk the halls. Campus visits where Chairs remain in the Administrative suite or other faculty offices do not provide them with information on a student's day-to-day experiences (or challenges).
- Course modality changes.
 - Classes originally advertised as in-person have changed last minute to either partially online or completely online. This information needs to be emailed to students before the term begins if the modality is changing.
 - As a campus with a non-traditional student base, sudden course changes can be particularly impactful to students with work, family, and other commitments.
- Train faculty advisors in giving career advice.
 - Our university tag line is "Industry's University." Hand in hand with that communication would be the expectation that Academic Affairs Leadership communicates to faculty the need for them to proactive in giving career advice.
 - Faculty are expected to perform career advising. Faculty should be connected to industry and up to date on what is happening and where there are job opportunities.

Associated Students of Oregon Institute of Technology, Portland-Metro

27500 SW Parkway Ave, Wilsonville, OR 97070

PM-ASOIT@groups.oit.edu



- Develop Portland-Metro specific 2-year course maps that are easily accessible to students and posted on each degree's web page.
 - Have a backup plan when situations arise that alter that 2-year map.
 - Enable a “search function” on the 2-year curriculum map to make the information more accessible.
- Reporting structure of concerns.
 - The Deans and Provost said they are often left out of the loop on student concerns.
 - We encourage Academic Affairs Leadership to take a more proactive approach in learning what problems need to be solved. ASOIT will be happy to facilitate these efforts.
 - Reporting structure should be (1) Faculty, (2) Chairs, (3) Deans, and (4) Provost
- Undisclosed material costs and software needs related to courses are not listed when students are registering for courses.
 - Make sure the lists appear in the course search when students are signing up for classes. Often the first time a student is aware that additional materials are required is the first day of class. There are delays in ordering and receiving these components from outside sources.
 - Software difficulties – some software required for courses is only accessible to students when they are on campus. This creates a barrier to students when the campus is not open 7 days a week, 24 hours a day.
- The faculty should be more accessible to students taking 300-400 level courses when they have course questions and need additional support.
 - Not unique to Oregon Tech, tutoring for these advanced courses at any university is often an unmet need as qualified tutors are near graduation or already working part time in their degree field.
- Faculty should be more receptive to the idea that lectures will be made available to students to review again as a study aid.
 - Per Dean Keyser, lectures are the intellectual property of Oregon Tech.
 - A library of recorded lectures (no more than 2 years old) would provide more resiliency to our campus and provide a high-quality educational experience when adjuncts are hired at the last minute or if instructors have emergencies.



ASOIT-PM are still seeking answers from Academic Affairs Leadership on the following item:

- Are there any specific percentages of credits that we as an institution want to stick to in order to advertise a program as a “Portland-Metro campus program”. This may require departments to plot out a 4-year curriculum map plan to maximize the on-campus opportunities.
 - Example: IT/Cybersecurity students can choose either on campus or online for many classes. There are classes that are only offered online that should be listed as such in a curriculum map.

We hope you communicate these student concerns and your commitments for resolution to the Portland-Metro faculty.

ASOIT-PM serves as advocates on behalf of the student body of this campus to receive the world class educational experience that the university communicates outward. In this advocacy role, we will continue to monitor these concerns and provide timely feedback to Academic Affairs Leadership.

Please reach out to us if you have any questions.

Respectfully,
ASOIT-PM

CC: Dr. Foley
President Naganathan
Chair Davis