DRAC 2/7/24

Attendees:

Travis Cram, Cynthia Horne, Julia Hawkins, Malachi Phillips, Gwen Pederson, Darren McCroom, Megan Ellis, Nicole Larson, Christa Schulz, Tim Fitzpatrick, Megan McGinnis, Amy Lazzell, Anne Melo, Erica Steele, Erin Casey, Evan Wren, Rax Organa, Rebecca McLean, Erin Emry, Chris Carthum, Mica Della Sala

- 1. Tim Fitzpatrick chaired the meeting in Vanessa Blackburn's absence
- 2. Approve Jan. 31 minutes: Minutes approved unanimously
- 3. Presentation: Forensics
 - a. Travis Cram and Erin Casey presented for the debate union
 - b. Forensics is Western's national recognized intercollegiate debate program, which has been competing for 75 years regionally, nationally and internationally.
 - c. The team placed in the top 4 at the national championships and in 23-24, have had teams and individuals in every finals.
 - d. Students engage in 5-20 hours of research each week
 - e. Uses DRAC funds for competition, travel, personnel, community engagement and hosting, and student scholarship
 - f. AEDI and anti-racism efforts include striving to reduce or eliminate barriers to access, center diverse perspectives and student experiences, and empower students to be future advocates for themselves and their communities
 - g. Students are from six of the seven colleges and 40-50 students are engaged in the team at any given time
- 4. Presentation: Theater and Dance
 - a. DRAC funds support:

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 - d. Performing arts conferences like KCACTF, USITT, and ACDA (58 students last year)
 - e. Student Travel: DRAC money covers registration fees and hotel expenses, removes financial barrier; Purpose of workshops: professional feedback, scholarships, national awards, professional auditions.
 - AEDI Season selection relevant and contemporaries plays are chosen, at least one has to be focused on AEDI; \$18,000 in funds to bring in guest artists; Costuming accommodations: sensory needs, gender expression, size, privacy, ungendered dressing rooms.
- 5. Discussion about ADEI

- a. DRAC appreciated how Forensics presented ADEI efforts and would like to use that as a template for other programs.
- b. DRAC reconfirmed our commitment to advancing ADEI goals of Western and illustrating how each of our programs implements this goal and commitment, recognizing that these goals are already a strength of our programming.
- c. DRAC recognized that many of our students learn research and learning techniques that help them continue to advocate for ADEI goals after graduation.