Wiki Edu

Monthly Report, January 2021

Highlights

- Despite the ongoing challenges stemming from the pandemic, the Spring 2021 term has gotten off to a solid start. We have 322 courses enrolled, which means we already surpassed our initial goal of 250.
- We have started the year with another Wikidata Institute. The editors in this course represent several institutions including Loyola-Marymount, the Canadian Heritage Network, Rutgers, the US Census Bureau, and the House of Commons Library (UK Parliament).
- We refined and updated a number of the most common points of confusion for students and instructors in our Student Program by overhauling several of the key templates that the Dashboard uses on students' sandbox pages, including the guidance for evaluating articles and providing peer review feedback.

Programs

Wikipedia Student Program

Spring 2021 in numbers:

- 322 courses were live on the Dashboard
- More than 3,000 students were enrolled

Performance at a glance: With 322 courses enrolled for Spring 2021, we have already surpassed our goal of 250 courses.

Despite the ongoing challenges stemming from the pandemic, the Spring 2021 term has gotten off to a solid start. We once again instituted an application process which meant that the vast majority of our Spring courses were up and running before the end of 2020. Students were beginning to enroll on the Dashboard and get their feet wet with Wikipedia editing.

Scholars & Scientists Program

Courses in progress:

- [Wikidata January Institute](): We have started the year with another Wikidata Institute! We are very excited to welcome these 15 editors to the course. They represent several institutions including Loyola-Marymount, the Canadian Heritage Network, Rutgers, the US Census Bureau, and the House of Commons Library (UK Parliament). We are very eager to see the impact that all of these diverse participants will have on Wikidata. You can follow their progress from the Dashboard linked above.
- [COVID-5](): We are lucky to be able to run two more COVID-19 themed courses. As the pandemic has developed and changed over the past several months, documenting it remains an extremely important task. Since so much has been documented already, updating, condensing, and re-writing articles has shifted the focus of this course. These 16 participants are up to the task and we are looking forward to all of their contributions. Click the above link to see what they're working on.
- [COVID-6](): In our second COVID-19 themed course, in addition to work expanding and improving existing articles, one of our 16 participants has created a new article on the [impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on Native American tribes and tribal communities](). You can follow their progress by clicking on the from the link to their work on the Dashboard.
- [APS-3](): Our third course in partnership with the American Physical Society is off to a great start. The 18 participants in the course are working on physics articles with a focus on quantum mechanics. Click on the link to see what they're working on, include a new [Tensor network]() article.

Additionally, planning has begun for the [LD4 Conference on Linked Data in Libraries 2021](). After an abrupt shift to a virtual format last year, this year the committee is planning for a fully digital conference from the beginning. The planning committee is exploring themes, styles of engagement, and what other "conference-y" elements to include this year.

Advancement

Partnerships

This month, we launched [a new Wiki Scientists course in partnership with the American Physical Society]() (APS). In this 6-week course, Wiki Education's Wikipedia experts will train APS members how to add quantum physics information to Wikipedia. We're excited about our continued partnership with APS and their

commitment to sharing public scholarship about physics and physicists through Wikipedia.

We also kicked off two courses where participants aim to improve Wikipedia's coverage of the impacts of COVID-19. After our first few successful Wiki Scholars courses around this topic, we're thrilled to bring more scientists and scholars to Wikipedia to focus on documenting and amplifying reliable information about the pandemic.

We finalized plans for 500 Women Scientists to run a 3rd Wiki Scientists course in March. Participants—primarily scientists who are members of the organization—will join the initiative to add women in STEM to Wikipedia.

Finally, we spent the month preparing for a Black History Wiki Scholars course in February, in which we'll train a group of scholars and students how to add Black biographies to Wikipedia. We'll run this course in partnership with several organizations joining us to make Wikipedia more reflective of their discipline.

Communications

Blog posts:

- [A Wikipedian gets assigned to edit Wikipedia in a college class](#) (January 5)
- [Improving Wikipedia's coverage of Indigenous Canadians](#) (January 13)
- [Celebrating Wikipedia's 20th birthday](#) (January 15)
- [Striving toward a more equitable Wikipedia](#) (January 29)

Technology

In January, we refined and updated a number of the most common points of confusion for students and instructors in preparation for an active Spring term in the Wikipedia Student Program. Chief Technology Officer Sage Ross overhauled several of the key templates that the Dashboard uses on students' sandbox pages, including the guidance for evaluating articles and providing peer review feedback.
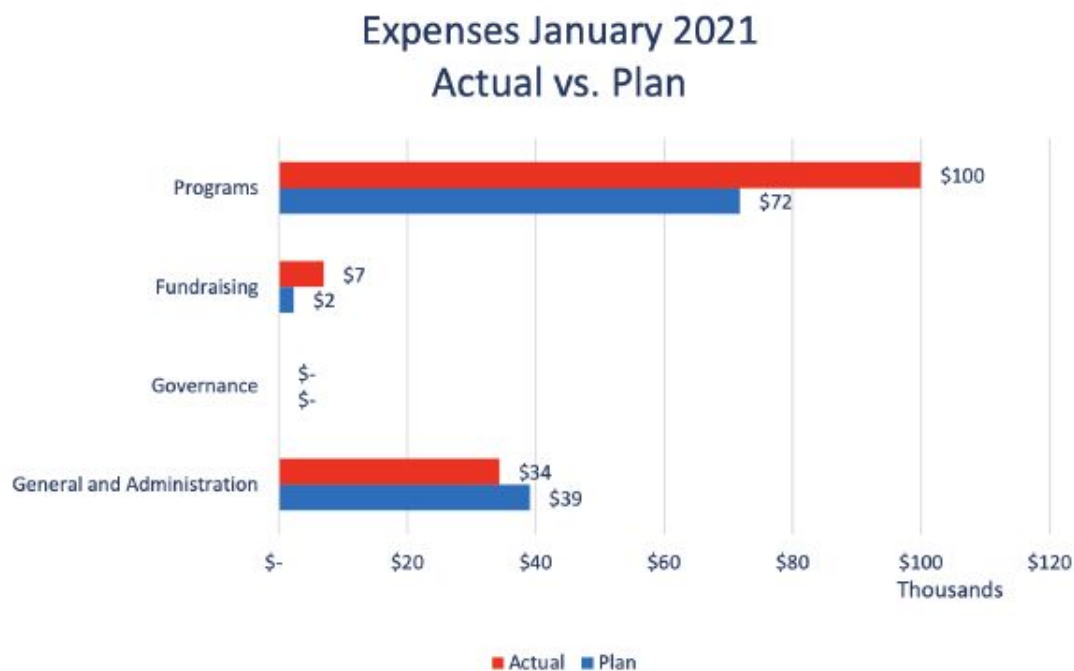
Sage analyzed the Dashboard's data on how long students take to complete each training module, discovering that skimming through each module relatively quickly seems to be the most common pattern, but with a wide distribution of completion times for each module. The estimated completion times for core training modules have been updated accordingly.

Volunteer developer Gustavo Francelino also contributed a series of new features for the Dashboard's "Activity" tab for course pages, which now shows alerts and

suspected plagiarism related to the course. This makes it easier for Wiki Education staff to pinpoint problems for a particular course, and also provides instructors with some key data that wasn't previously available from their Dashboard course pages.
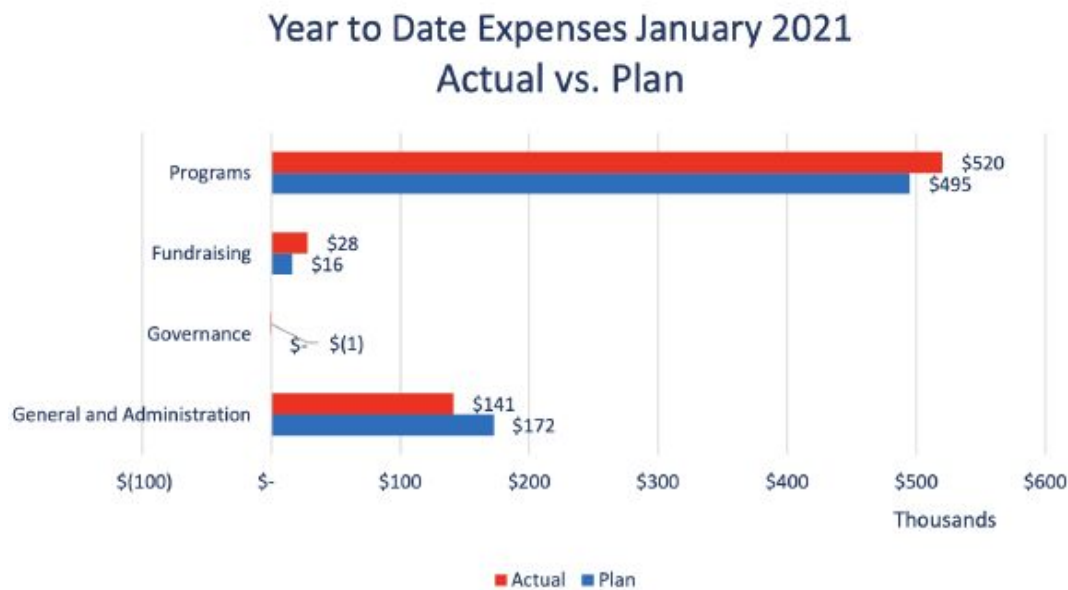
Finance & Administration

The total expenditures for the month of January were $141K, +$28 over the budget of $113K. Fundraising was over budget by +$5K, comprised of +$2K Consulting Contract and over +$2K from a Vacation accrual adjustment and over +$1K in Indirect Costs. General & Administrative was under by ($5K). This is due to under spending on Payroll Costs ($9K), and under in Indirect Costs ($11K) while over +$13K in Location Expenses by paying down deferred rent, and +$2K from an equipment purchase. Programs were over by +$28, Payroll Costs were over +$19K, largely due to the Vacation accrual adjustment. Over +$11K in Indirect costs while under ($1K) in Travel and ($1K) in Communications.

The Year-to-date expenses were $689K, +$5K over the budget of $684K. The Board was under budget by ($1K) due to a Vacation accrual adjustment. Fundraising was over +$12K due to a new Consulting Contract +$8K, +$3K in Indirect Expenses, and over +$1K in Payroll. General & Administrative were under ($31K). Payroll costs were under ($53K) due to vacation payout paid in June instead of July along with a few other payroll cost reductions, ($14K) in indirect expenses while over +$10K in Occupancy +$15K in Professional Services, +$6K Other Direct expenses, +$2K in Communications, and +$3K in Equipment. Programs were over +$25K, this is due to a couple of Payroll Adjustments +$20K, +$2K Consulting contract, and +$11K

Indirect expenses which is partly offset by being under ($9K) in Communications, Internet and Software and under ($1K) in Travel.

Year to Date Expenses January 2021 Actual vs. Plan

Category	Actual	Plan
Programs	$520	$495
Fundraising	$28	$16
Governance	$-	$(1)
General and Administration	$141	$172

(amounts in Thousands)

■ Actual ■ Plan

Office of the ED

Current priorities

- Finishing the hiring for the open fundraiser position
- Starting the FY 2021–22 annual planning cycle with the January board meeting

In January, Frank started working with Victoria, who joined the organization in December as a half-time Executive Assistant. Staff supported the onboarding process, so that Victoria was off to a good start within a very short timeframe. Victoria took on a number of projects that Frank hadn't had the capacity to complete, e.g. the planning the move of our office furniture from San Francisco to Chico, coordinating the quarterly Finance & Audit committee meeting, dealing with issues of access to some of our business accounts, and fixing the internet access at our Chico office.

Also in January, Frank hired Kathleen Ramsey as Wiki Education's new Director of Donor Relations. Kathleen comes from BrightFocus Foundation, where she managed a portfolio of foundations and corporations in an effort to cure diseases of mind and sight. Before BrightFocus, she administered major and planned gifts at Cystic Fibrosis Foundation. Kathleen will start in the second half of February.

On January 15, staff gathered for a virtual holiday party on Zoom. LiAnna's husband Alex led staff through a beer tasting and we all greatly enjoyed spending some social time together, although we missed being able to meet in person.

On January 22 and 23, Wiki Education's board met online for the traditional January board meeting. The January board meeting serves at capturing the state of the organization at the half-way point in the fiscal year and at kicking off the annual planning cycle for the new fiscal year starting in July. On the first day of the meeting, Frank provided the board with an update on how the organization had gotten through the pandemic so far and with an outlook on what to expect going forward, followed by updates on Programs from LiAnna, and on Technology and Research from Sage. Frank and LiAnna also led a discussion about the Wikimedia Foundation's current planning process for implementing the Wikimedia movement's 2030 strategy. On the second day of the board meeting, Susan Malone from our auditing firm Hood & Strong and Jordan Daly from our financial services contractor SFBay Financial joined the Audit Committee meeting to present the results of our annual audit. Board and ED also discussed the board recruitment needs.

Also in January, LiAnna and Frank attended a number of Wikimedia strategy implementation meetings focused on the creation of an Interim Global Council for the Wikimedia movement, and on the creation of regional and thematic hubs.

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