



Monthly Report, February 2021

Highlights

- The last two of our six COVID-19 courses wrapped up this month. The courses were part of Wiki Education's initiative to provide people in the United States with accurate and complete information about COVID-19-related topics through Wikipedia. To our knowledge, this was the first effort ever to successfully engage subject-matter experts during a national emergency to systematically improve Wikipedia's coverage of a topic crucial to the general public.
- To celebrate Black History Month, we launched two Black History Wiki Scholars courses, in which participants will add biographies of notable Black figures to Wikipedia. We partnered with the Association of Psychological Science, whose sponsored members will identify and improve Black psychologists' biographies, and the Genetic Society of America, whose sponsored members will select a Black geneticist to represent on-wiki.

Programs

Wikipedia Student Program

Spring 2021 in numbers:

- 337 courses had course pages on the Dashboard.
- More than 4,500 students were enrolled.
- Students added 600,000 words to Wikipedia, worked on 1,840 articles, and created 75 new entries.



Performance at a glance: With 337 courses onboarded, we significantly exceeded our goal of 250 courses.

February is the month that students really begin to take a deeper dive into their Wikipedia assignments. They've learned the basics, decided which article to work on, and have gathered their sources. Many have even made their first main space edits as we already surpassed 500,000 words added! In the coming weeks, more and more students will begin to draft their contributions and make the leap into the article main space.

Scholars & Scientists Program

Courses in progress:

- [Wikidata January Institute](#): The Wikidata January Institute wrapped up this month! These are short three-week intensive introductions to Wikidata. We were very impressed with the number of edits from this course. This group created over 40 items and edited over 430 items! They also added just over 1,000 references to statements. Part of this large number of edits is thanks, in part, to having active members of the [PCC Wikidata Pilot](#) who took this course. This pilot is exploring the creation of library metadata on Wikidata.
- [COVID-5](#): This COVID-themed course also wrapped up this month. These sixteen editors made a significant impact on the 31 articles they edited. Particular standouts include the COVID response for the state of [Pennsylvania](#) and [Louisiana](#).
- [COVID-6](#): Our second COVID-19 themed class also wrapped up this month. The sixteen participants in this course improved 39 articles on Wikipedia including [COVID-19 pandemic in New Hampshire](#) and the [Timeline of the COVID-19 pandemic in Texas](#), in addition to creating a new article about the [impact of COVID-19 on neurological, psychological and other mental health outcomes](#).
- [APS-3](#): Our third course in partnership with the American Physical Society wrapped up this month. The 19 participants improved 50 articles on Wikipedia including major improvements to [Nitrogen-vacancy center](#), [Mathematical formulation of quantum mechanics](#), [Cuprate superconductor](#) articles and the [Púlsar](#) article on the Spanish Wikipedia, in addition to a new article about [Atom localization](#).
- [Black History Wiki Scholars](#): This month we began a Wiki Scholars course in honor of Black History Month. The goal of this course is to improve Wikipedia articles about Black people. With seats sponsored by the Genetic Society of

America, the American Physical Society, and Fastly, we are eager to see the impact these 26 editors will have on Wikipedia.

- [Black History Wiki Scholars](#): Due to the large amount of interest and significant sponsorship for this course we were able to create a second section for our Black History Wiki Scholars course. This section focuses on the same theme as the other section with a mix of participants representing diverse professional backgrounds. We look forward to the content these 18 participants will produce!

Advancement

Partnerships

To celebrate Black History Month, we launched a Black History Wiki Scholars course, in which participants will add at least one biography of a notable Black figure to Wikipedia. We were thrilled to see interest in this work, and we ended up running two Black History Wiki Scholars courses to support 40 participants through this process. We partnered with the Association of Psychological Science, whose sponsored members will identify and improve Black psychologists' biographies, and the Genetic Society of America, whose sponsored members will select a Black geneticist to represent on-wiki. Additionally, we received funding to invite scholars to apply for free, and we're excited about the two groups and the work they're doing to make Wikipedia more equitable.

This month, we confirmed a Wiki Scholars course we'll run in late Spring. In partnership with GO-GN, we will train their network—scholars whose research involved Open Educational Resources (OER)—to improve Wikipedia's OER article and others in that topic area. This is a great fit for our organization, as our work centers around one of the biggest OERs: Wikipedia.

Communications

In February, we welcomed our spring Marketing and Communications Intern, Evan Monk. Evan is a current undergraduate student at Vanderbilt University pursuing degrees in Human and Organizational Development and Psychology. He will help us tell the story of the Scholars and Scientists program to prospective individuals and institutions.

Blog posts:

- [Students improve Rudolph Fisher article](#) (February 1)
- [Welcome, Victoria and Evan!](#) (February 11)

- [Building my Wikipedia confidence](#) (February 16)
- [Recapping the Fall 2020 term](#) (February 24)
- [Welcome, Kathleen!](#) (February 25)

Technology

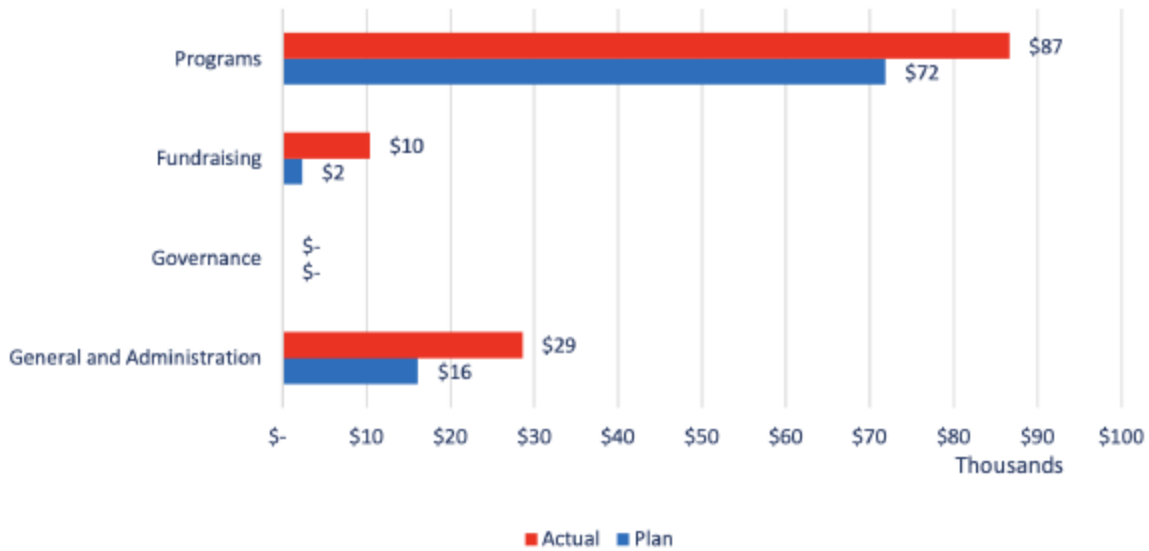
This month Chief Technology Officer Sage Ross worked with the Wikipedia Classroom Program team to implement a new system of automated course advice emails, which the Dashboard now sends out to instructors at key stages in the Wikipedia assignment. These emails highlight advice on grading, finding student work, and using key Dashboard features.

Sage worked on improving resource allocation for the global Programs & Events Dashboard, which has been having trouble keeping up with the volume of high-activity programs being tracked. He also researched and prepared to hire a Ruby on Rails performance consultant to help assess and address the performance of the Dashboard to make sure it can handle this load going forward; we'll work with Nate Berkopec of [Speedshop](#) in March.

Finance & Administration

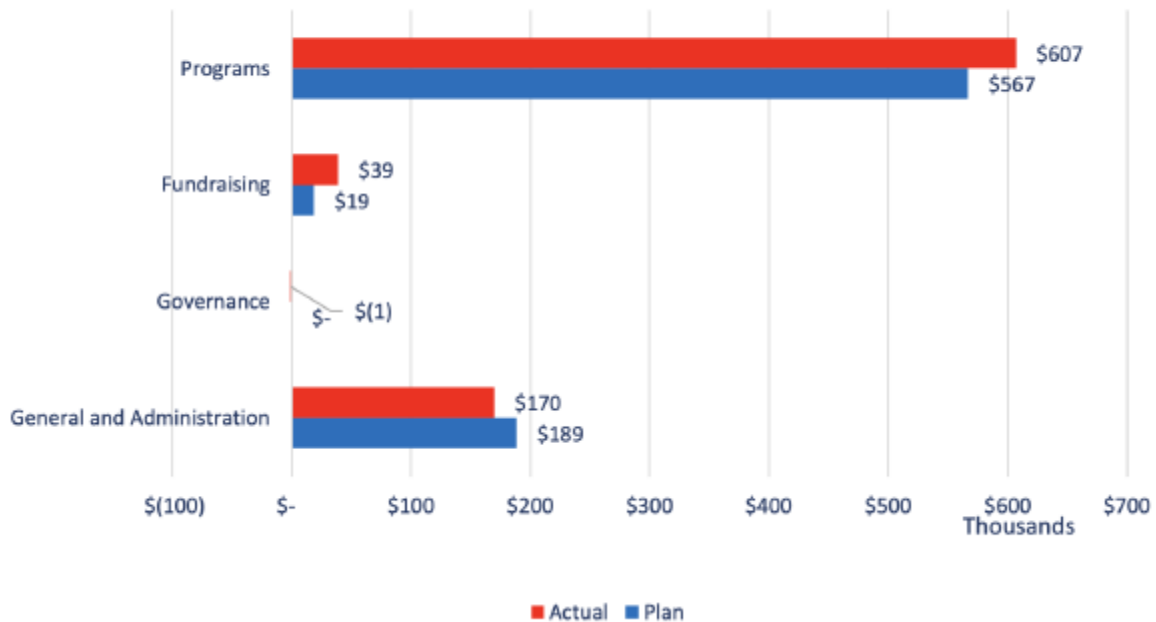
The total expenditures for the month of February were \$126K, +\$36K over the budget of \$90K. Fundraising was over budget by +\$8K, comprised of +\$6K in Payroll and +\$2K in Indirect Costs. General & Administrative was over +\$13K consisting of +\$6K in Payroll, +\$6K in Professional Fees and +\$1K in other Administrative Expenses. Programs were over by +\$15K due to overages in Payroll Costs by +\$19K, while under (\$1K) in Travel, (\$1K) in Communications and (\$2K) in Indirect Costs.

Expenses February 2021 Actual vs. Plan



The Year-to-date expenses were \$814K, +\$40K over the budget of \$774K. The Board was under budget by (\$1K) due to a Vacation accrual adjustment. Fundraising was over +\$20K due to an increase in Payroll +\$7K, an ongoing Consulting Contract +\$8K, and +\$5K in Indirect Expenses. General & Administrative were under (\$19K). Payroll costs were under (\$47K) due to vacation payout paid in June instead of July along with a few other payroll cost reductions, (\$15K) in indirect expenses, and (\$1K) in Travel while over +\$22K in Professional Services, +\$9K in location expenses, +\$7K in other Administrative fees, +\$2K in Communications, and +\$4K in Equipment. Programs were over +\$40K due to an increase in payroll +\$39K, +\$2K Consulting contract, +\$2K In Software expenses, +\$9K in Indirect expenses, while under (\$9K) in Communications and (\$3K) in Travel.

Year to Date Expenses February 2021 Actual vs. Plan



Office of the ED

Current priorities

- Onboarding the new Fundraiser
- Getting ready for the FY 2021–22 annual planning process
- Participating in Wikimedia Foundation events around implementation of the new strategy

In early February, Frank traveled to San Francisco and coordinated the move of office furniture to our small office space in Chico. He also found a tenant that will take over our office lease in the Presidio. At the beginning of the pandemic in March 2020 we had successfully moved the organization to 100% remote work, yet our office lease in San Francisco continued. At this point, we're not expecting to go back to the Bay Area and we're therefore very happy about having secured a new tenant, so we don't continue paying rent for an office that we're not using.

In February, Frank and Kathleen, Wiki Education's new Fundraiser, had a number of meetings aimed at getting Kathleen up to speed on the organization's past fundraising efforts and at creating alignment around the path forward.

Also in February, LiAnna and Frank continued attending 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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