

# DISTANCE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

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Minutes of the February 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2012 Meeting

**Attendees:** Patti Blanton, Diana Botsford, Neal Callahan, Deanne Camp, Jeff Morrissey, Joye Norris, Jo Agnew Talley, Pam Trewatha, Rose Utley

## **1) Review of minutes from 1.19.12 meeting**

Deanne Camp made a motion to approve minutes from 1.19.12 meeting. All in favor, motion passed.

## **2) New DEC member**

It was stated that Nancy Gordon will represent the FCTL on the Distance Education Committee.

## **3) West Plains announcements (handout)**

David White made a recommendation that West Plains receive DEC updates from the minutes and no longer attend the meetings via ITV. It was suggested that Gary Rader discuss with David and find out more about this request and if there are any issues regarding the distance delivery of the meetings. The "Online Adventures" handout was discussed which is an incentive program at West Plains designed to encourage the continuous improvement of online and blended courses. The question regarding where the "Online Adventures" program funding was coming from was raised. It was stated that Title III money could be used to fund incentives for professional development, but that David White would be able to provide clarification. The committee discussed the possibility of the FCTL creating something like this program in Springfield.

## **4) Technology funding overview**

The committee discussed how student fees are allocated as well as the fees being charged to traditional students taking online classes. It was determined that SCUF funds are not charged to online students; only those taking traditional classes pay into this fund. The committee requested data regarding the number of students taking online courses. Joye Norris stated that she would provide these data at the next meeting.

## **5) History of faculty stipend**

Neal Callahan stated that in 2009, faculty senate was concerned that the online teaching stipend may be threatened and also had concerns relating to communication regarding online policies, rules, teaching requirements, etc. An ad hoc committee was formed to address these issues and draft a report to the Faculty Senate. After the faculty senate reviewed the preliminary report, it was decided that a University committee should be formed to address the issues and policies as well as make recommendations to the provost relating to distance education. A meeting was held with Provost Belinda McCarthy, where she stated that the \$55 stipend was an established policy and well-funded and was not being considered for elimination. Provost McCarthy agreed on the formation of the DEC.

It was stated that if the stipend is significantly reduced or eliminated then the faculty senate would likely get involved again. Discussion ensued relating to the amount of time required to teach an online course versus a seated course. Members voiced support for the continuation of the stipend based on the conclusion that online teaching requires additional effort and time compared to seated courses. If the stipend were to be withdrawn concerns were voiced indicating it might halt progress relating to distance education.

Minutes submitted by:

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