DISTANCE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Minutes of the October 2, 2014 Meeting

Attendees: Arbindra Rimal, Crystal Gale, Gary Rader, Joye Norris, Lacey Geiger, Patti Blanton, Rose Utley, Stan Leasure, Stacy Rice

I.   Review of minutes from 9.11.14

Motion to approve: Stan Leasure
Second: Gary Rader

II.   Higher Learning Commission Matrix Review

The matrix was created based on the HLC criteria related specifically to online delivery of instruction. The first column provides the HLC criteria and core components and the second column a description of MSU practices. The matrix was reviewed by section as follow:

Section I: Curriculum and Instructional Design. It was noted that new distance delivered programs are approved through departments, colleges and university committee review.

Section II: Staffing and Faculty support. The committee discussed current practices involving the Digital Professor Academy. It was noted that the DPA has been revised from a one-semester to a two-semester program providing more time for faculty to develop the course and complete the peer review process. The first part of the DPA is strictly pedagogy. Under the faculty stipend policy, the DPA is required. Faculty not receiving the stipend may elect to enroll in the DPA as well. There was discussion regarding faculty who are teaching online for the first time at MSU and not enrolled in the DPA. These individuals may or may not have previous online teaching experience. It was suggested that an orientation course be developed to support these faculty. Stacey Rice volunteered to share a course framework with the committee at the next meeting. A stipend for faculty revising a course through the DPA was mentioned but a firm recommendation was not determined.

Section III: Student Support Services.   One convenient BB feature for students would be links for BearCLAW, Libraries, etc. in BB when students log in – this is not yet possible, Stacy says it will be possible when "BB communities" are implemented. Also, template for new BB courses will include more links to university resources by default. Core Component 2c, under HLC Criteria needs additional explanation of BB Collaborate. Stacy Rice will add additional information concerning the Collaborate resource.

The committee will continue to review the final sections of the matrix at the next meeting.

III.   Online Student Readiness Survey
- *Review of progress.*

Lacey will follow up with Patti Salinas (after 2 weeks) to see what kind of data we might want to have setup to follow if "online readiness" is meaningful or not.

Minutes respectfully submitted by:

Lacey Geiger
Open Course Coordinator
Missouri State Outreach