

## **DISTANCE EDUCATION COMMITTEE MEETING**

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February 16, 2017 · Carrington 203

Present: Jan Atwell, Jessica Bennett, Patti Blanton, Ching-Wen Chang, Lacey Geiger, Gary Iman, Michelle Hulett, Krista (Webb) Lair, Jeff Morrissey, Joye Norris, Caryn Saxon, Gary Rader, Christine Sudbrock

### **Minutes**

**Review of the Minutes of 1/25/2017** – Approved without correction.

#### **Proctoring Center Update** (Gary Rader)

- The move from the old proctoring center over to the new space in the library is currently in progress. Tables and computers are being repurposed.
- Hill Hall is going to make temporary use of the old proctoring center room as an advising space while Hill Hall is being renovated.
- There was a question asked about how many spots the new Proctoring Center will have available for Paper-Pencil tests. Dr. Rader was not sure on this point, but said he would find out.

#### **Distance Educator Update** (Lacey Geiger)

- There are now updates going to all people who have taught in the past two years. Please let Ms. Geiger know if you have taught online and are not receiving updates.

#### **Recommendations from the Subcommittee on Course Delivery** (*handout attached*)

- There was a discussion of the drawbacks of the DPA as a method of making sure that current online instructors are trained sufficiently to fulfill that role – and the two factors that seem to go into preventing people interested in the DPA from applying.
- There was a question asked about whether training in this area can be tracked using the Professional Learning Development System. Dr. Rader will investigate this.
- It was noted that in the verbiage, “development of first online course” – the word “first” should be removed as faculty may have taught a course but did not receive the stipend.
- As for the topic of helping our instructors stay up to date and current, the discussion veered to the topic of a potential self-assessment or peer review. It was agreed that a self-assessment might not have enough “teeth”. The potential for a rotating peer-review was floated as a possibility; perhaps something that our committee could develop minimum requirements for (which would be applicable to all, and which individual departments could build upon.)

#### **The Online Teaching Stipend**

- The discussion moved on to the \$55 per student stipend for teaching online, and the fact that in the face of budget cuts this stipend is being closely looked at.
- It was noted that the only kind of encouragement we currently have to keep courses up to date and current is to, potentially, tie the stipend to training or development.
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- Two members of the committee (who are also online instructors) were vocal about:
  - the massive amount of extra time that teaching online takes,

- the massive financial hit that would be taken by these instructors if the stipend were to be done away with,
  - if the stipend were done away with, we would need to cap online class size, and add extra classes when the cap size is reached,
  - that some departments actually don't have the ability to add extra classes,
  - and that, without the stipend, we would have (even more) trouble getting people to teach in this modality.
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- It was again suggested that perhaps the stipend could just be decreased *slightly*, like by \$5 or \$10 per head, to allow people to adjust to the change.
  - The question was broached as to how long these changes would be in place – just for two years, until the budget issues are resolved, or forever? It was explained that the answer is currently unclear.
  - It was agreed that our committee needs to speak to the Provost on the subject of the stipend. Joye Norris and Patti Blanton agreed to continue the discussion and offer the thoughts of the committee to the Provost the next day.

Minutes respectfully submitted by:

**Jamie Hall, M.S.**

*Executive Assistant III*

Missouri State Outreach