

DISTANCE EDUCATION COMMITTEE MEETING

January 25 2017 · Carrington 203

Present: Jessica Bennett, Patti Blanton, Lacey Geiger, Stephanie Hein, Joye Norris, Gary Rader, Stacy Rice, Caryn Saxon, Krista (Webb) Lair

Minutes

Review of the Minutes of 12/7/2016 – Approved without correction.

Follow-Up Reports of the Sub-Committee on Student Authenticity and Course Delivery

- **Student Authenticity** Sub-Committee had no updates.
- **Course Delivery** generated some discussion on the topic of a stipend for course redevelopment, the lack of people applying for the development stipend and what might be causing that lack (such as limits on time, the peer review process, etc.) It was agreed that the Course Delivery Sub-Committee will produce recommendations regarding minimum standards – for instance, a standard that if it's an online course, interacting with the students during the course is *required*.
- **Online Class Audit:** It was pointed out that Missouri Southern did an audit of all online classes last year, and then will randomly select 10 percent to audit each year from here on out. West Plains supplied that they do a 25% audit each year.

Test Proctoring Center

- Dr. Rader announced that the test proctoring center in Strong Hall is no more. All test proctoring has been moved to the library testing center, under Sue McCrory.

US News and World Report

- We are 76th on **US News and World Report's** list of online programs. One of the questions we answered to US News and World Report was whether all our online instructors had to go through any kind of review before teaching. It was asked whether this might behoove us to require all new online instructors to go through some sort of training.
- **DPA vs. Black Belt:** A discussion of the difference between the DPA and Blackboard Black Belt arose – namely, which one would be more appropriate as a training for new online instructors. It was pointed out that the DPA is just about course development – not about maintenance, and that the Black Belt might be more appropriate for that.
- **It was suggested** that the instructor who wins the Certified Distance Educator award could be asked to do a video walk-through of their course as part of training for future instructors.

ADA Compliance Sub-Committee Report (*handout attached*)

- It is a multi-faceted problem – not the least part of which is that the university does not have ADA guidelines yet. They are still hashing out some things, and we are unclear how the budget cuts will affect this project.

- We want to make sure we have the infrastructure in place before there is a rush of people to get their courses reviewed. Part of the problem is that we only have one person on campus qualified to access ADA Compliance – Kristina Larue.
- The committee spoke at length about the materials in their handout, **Accessibility Guidelines for Online Course Content**.
- It was asked whether ADA Compliance might be a possible topic for Showcase. It was clarified that this actually *has* been a topic at Showcase for the past couple years, but it is seldom popular.
- The DEC agreed that it would be nice to reach a point where a student doesn't even have to tell you that they have disability issues (such as vision problems, etc.).
- It was also agreed that ADA Compliance rules should go out to all instructors; not just online.
- Krista (Webb) Lair was asked if she would like to be the West Plains representative on the "Digital Accessibility Oversight Committee" headed by Dr. Chris Craig. She assented.

Minutes respectfully submitted by:

Jamie Hall, M.S.

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