

DISTANCE EDUCATION COMMITTEE MEETING

March 23 2017 · Carrington 203

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

Minutes

Review of the Minutes of 2/11/2017 – Approved without correction.

Subcommittee Progress and Outcomes (*handout*)

The committee briefly discussed the subcommittee progress and outcomes, as encompassed in the attached handout. Additionally, these points were discussed:

- **Course Delivery:** The Course Delivery subcommittee specifically discussed the stipend for course development and a potential focus on the instructor, rather than the course, in future development. The lack of people applying for the development funds was discussed – and, whether, pending a change to instructor-focused development in the future, it would be reasonable to say that, “If funding is limited, funding priority will be given to first-time instructors.” It was agreed that this was reasonable, but that decisions about this will have to wait until after the budget concerns are decided in April. (Additionally, it was noted that 58 faculty received the development stipend in 2011, and just six in 2017; and that 33 faculty submitted the application but did not complete the process).
- **Accessibility:** It was noted that we need to highlight best practices to instructors – and that a good way to do this would be having the Provost Office deliver these practices directly to the faculty. Lacey Geiger was requested to group the best practices on a web page (potentially on the DEC website) and that Chris Craig might agree to send them to the faculty with his syllabi updates each fall. **Student Authenticity:** Lacey Geiger is working on a webpage summarizing details about our current methods of student authentication. There is prioritization of training and communication going on – but, outside previous recommendations of the subcommittee in trying out a couple lesser-known authentication programs, it was agreed that MSU is currently following HLC practices.

Provost Feedback and the Online Stipend

Joye Norris and Patti Blanton have reported the Distance Education Committee’s feedback to the Provost on the importance of the stipend and why it should be retained. It was emphasized that the

Provost *is not* driving the discussion of taking the stipend away, and that it would ultimately be decided after the Town Hall meeting on April 10th.

- **Budget Funds:** The point was brought up that some department heads might be under the impression that the money for the stipend comes out of their own budgets. It was clarified that was not the case, and that any potential savings from removing the stipend *would not* be passed along to the departments (but would simply be eliminated from the budget altogether). There was some question, then, whether the stipend potentially increased faculty *fringe* costs on a departmental budget.
- **Reduction:** The committee felt, as a whole, that a reduction of the stipend (rather than an outright elimination) was the most reasonable course of action.
- **Cap Class Sizes:** The committee also agreed that if the stipend were to go away – there would have to be an adjustment that allows faculty to cap their class sizes, to avoid potential abuse. Should the stipend be eliminated, this recommendation will be made.

Minutes respectfully submitted by:

Jamie Hall, M.S.
Executive Assistant III
Missouri State Outreach

DEC Subcommittee Summaries

Student Authentication:

At this time, there are limited opportunities to increase student authentication events without dramatic disruption to the student environment. HLC has made comments to a number of universities regarding authentication, and it remains a place for innovation. Outreach will continue to monitor the technology as it advances and becomes more cost-effective. Strategies for ensuring authentic interaction will be added to faculty MSONline webpages.

Accessibility:

Dr. Craig is heading up an accessibility workgroup for the university. DEC members Stacy Rice and Lacey Geiger are members of this committee and will help provide updates as new information becomes available. DEC will help promote accessibility and universal design initiatives through the FCTL, and the Online Update will feature events as they become available.

Course Delivery:

The course delivery subcommittee made several recommendations to be revisited after the administration has settled the future of the per head online student stipend. In addition, we will explore options to reframe the course development stipend to allow training for a greater number of faculty.