

DISTANCE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Minutes of the March 6, 2014 Meeting

Attendees: Patti Blanton, Deanne Camp, Crystal Gale, Stan Leasure, Gary Iman, Jeff Morrissey, Joye Norris, Gary Rader, Rose Utley

- 1) **The minutes were approved.**
- 2) **Follow Up on the Online Student Readiness Survey.** There was a lengthy discussion of the Online Student Readiness survey questions. It was agreed that the questions in the example were somewhat dated, and needed to be revised. Dr. Norris volunteered to re-review and update the questions. Crystal Gale and Gary Iman agreed to assist. Also reexamined was the question of when, exactly, the students would fill out this survey, and what to do with students who scored poorly. It was agreed that a video or tutorial of some sort should pop up the first time a student registers for an online class, but more research needs to be done on how, exactly, that might be accomplished. Additionally, it was discussed that rather than creating a lot of new tutorials, there may be tutorials out there that already exist and could be used as-is.
- 3) **Booklist:** A side issue of how students find their booklists was discussed. There are several ways to get to it, but it was generally felt that the location of the required books for a given course was not entirely clear to students. Jeff Morrissey said that, this summer, Blackboard plans to announce a new service that will allow students to purchase books through the Blackboard system from “Missouri Bookstore” which is not affiliated with MSU.
- 4) **Master Online Faculty Certification.** The committee was in favor of doing an optional certification for faculty that teach online classes (similar to the Master Advisor certificate, or Digital Professor). It was agreed that Paula Wilhelm, Nancy Gordon, and Kristi Oetting would be invited to the next meeting for clarification of the online faculty training materials that are currently available/possible.
- 5) **Report on SARA.** Dr. Joye Norris and Dr. Gary Rader reported on regarding the State Authorization Reciprocity Agreement, a national compact allowing institutions in participating states to take part in this consortium agreement. The new rule goes into effect July 2014. We have been working steadily to make sure we were in step with this. We will continue to monitor the situation in case things don’t turn out as expected.

Minutes respectfully submitted by:

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