

DISTANCE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Minutes of the March 7, 2013 Meeting

Attendees: Patti Blanton, Diana Botsford, Neal Callahan, Nancy Gordon, Jeff Morrissey, Joye Norris, Gary Rader, Rose Utley

1) Review of minutes from February 7, 2013

Meeting minutes were approved by all.

2) Lecture Capture /Videoconferencing Task Force Update (handout)

Jeff reported on the outcome of the committee examining Adobe Connect. He identified three areas requiring attention including: overall service, licensing costs, and evening support. As the number of faculty users increased, there has not been a subsequent expansion of services provided. Jeff discussed the university's networking capacity and stated that the university's network is not an issue concerning the performance of Adobe Connect. Issues that affect end users' ability to connect include configuration issues, personal network issues, and other components separate from the university. Jeff recommended that the issue of further scrutinizing Adobe Connect as well as identifying web conferencing alternatives should be handled by a task force of the IT Council. DEC members agreed to write up a proposal regarding its intent in examining web-conferencing products that Joye might present to the ALC for their feedback. Patti volunteered to write a draft overview. Joye stated that she would get usage data from Alan Roland to include. The draft proposal will be emailed to the DEC before sending to the Provost for his endorsement.

3) Re-evaluation of online student survey questions for online classes

Gary stated that he will be meeting with Kelly Cara in the Assessment Council after spring break to discuss survey wording issues. Some points that were brought up were the need to keep surveys consistent and also ideas concerning improving the return rate of the survey. It was suggested that surveys be offered as extra credit or at mid-terms so that the students could fill them out and receive performance points.

4) Course redevelopment discussion

The committee discussed online course redevelopment compensation. The committee felt that the role of technology in all courses, (blended, online, and face-to-face) has changed with increased integration of technology across all modalities. The line between online and other courses is becoming blurred so to provide redevelopment compensation for one form of delivery appears unwise. The committee suggested that in lieu of monetary compensation, departments might consider release time or a more favorable schedule to support major course revamping. It was suggested that it might be helpful to inform department heads that the robust nature of technology is raising the bar in online teaching. As faculty spend additional time redeveloping online courses, it would be helpful to include this activity in the tenure and promotion process. This might be a topic for a future AAA meeting.

5) Certification for on-line teaching

The DEC was instrumental in the development of the Digital Professor Academy launched in fall 2011. The DEC is now requesting that the Faculty Center for Teaching and Learning (FCTL) provide a summary of how the DPA is doing and what has been learned in the past 20 months about supporting online faculty development. The question was raised that now may be the time to develop a certification for online teaching similar to the highly successful Master Advisor series. Following a report by the FCTL, the DEC will brainstorm potential online faculty certification options.

6) Future Business

The DEC will discuss the Digital Professor Academy, Blackboard certification, and Blackboard issues at a later date.

Minutes submitted by:

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