

DISTANCE EDUCATION COMMITTEE MEETING

April 20, 2017 · Carrington 203

Minutes

Attendance: Jan Atwell, Patti Blanton, Keri Franklin, Gary Iman, Lacey Geiger, Stephanie Hein, Michelle Hulett, Joye Norris, Gary Rader, Caryn Saxon

Minutes reviewed and seconded.

Course outcomes related to HLC concerns (Keri Franklin)

Keri Franklin of Assessment was a guest speaker at this meeting and presented on the topic of delivery modes and concern from the HLC.

- *“The Dual Credit Office has found outcomes of courses taught for dual credit are similar to those of courses taught on the University's campus. In discussing the comparison of courses taught in both distance and seated formats, however, it was found that practices for assessing the similarity of learning outcomes differed across academic disciplines. Some disciplines collected outcome data from both online and seated courses, but did not compare outcomes across course presentation methods. Other departments have compared the pass and retention rates of courses taught online and seated and found them to be similar. While MSU has been found to meet this component, assurance of the comparability of quality of educational processes would be strengthened if more attention were given to assuring periodic comparison of outcomes achieved with differing course delivery methods.” (p. 30)*
- Dr. Franklin asked whether the committee had anything they would like to provide that might help with how we are going to address this to the HLC.
- Dr. Rader asked what models are being used elsewhere; in the studies that have demonstrated that there is no measurable difference in outcomes between online and in-person classes, what tools are they using to measure that? He also suggests a somewhat standardized syllabi for campus to assist with standardizing learning outcome goals.
- There was a discussion of learning outcomes, and how it is assumed that every class has learning outcomes – and that, while standardized outcomes are a top priority, in practice, instructors may wind up creating their own. Mr. Iman pointed out that in COM 115 that is not the case – there is a set standard and specific required outcomes for that class.
- Dr. Franklin suggests that the assessment center revise the program review template, and proposes to offer a research grant that would study the difference between online and face-to-face classes.

Web and Handbook Update (*Lacey Geiger*)

- A draft of the revised online faculty handbook was distributed for consideration.
- Planned updates include the changes to Test Proctoring, updating definitions, changes to Digital Professor Academy, and adding the Accessibility Institute.

Stipends – Moving Forward

- It was noted that the administration is leaning toward the change to the \$40 stipend (\$13.00 per credit hour) rather than the \$30 stipend.

Meetings & Committee Membership

- Ching-Wen Chang was nominated for the position of Co-Chair to replace the outgoing Patti Blanton. This was seconded and approved by acclamation.
- It was agreed that the next meeting would be a lunch, wrap-up meeting for the semester, and would be held early in May to avoid scheduling issues.