

Distance Learning Committee

Friday, February 24, 2017

1 – 2:30

HBC 411

Meeting Minutes – Draft

Attendees: Al Purcell, April Whalen, Erasmus Addae, Carleen Sanchez, Donna Moore, Neelam Noorani, Amy Setter, Rachel Barrera, Carol Townsend, Terry Barksdale, Michelle Escudier, Clark Peterson, Susan Thomason

I. Call to order and introductions

II. Open Issues

a. Review/Update of Administration Rule 4.01.001 – DL Best Practices

The current administrative rule is based on SACS 2011. The committee voted favorably to establish a sub-committee to review current SACS policy statement that includes some new federal requirements. The sub-committee will include a faculty and student services pool. Erasmus will work with the sub-committee. It will be formed by March 10.

b. Correspondence courses and implications for financial aid

ACC is not accredited to offer correspondence courses. Financial aid issues can arise if this is not addressed. The main difference in online courses and correspondence is interaction between student and instructor. Technology used must be appropriate and uniform within ACC. Distance Learning courses that do not use appropriate technology or provide for regular and substantive interaction must be brought into compliance.

c. Evaluations – Response rate and relevance of current instrument

The response rate needs to be improved. It is 90% for face-to-face and only 28% for DL. The revised evaluation instrument approved by the DLC in 2012 has still not been implemented. Erasmus and Clark will work with the Faculty Evaluation office and IT to implement the revised evaluation. It was also suggested that Marketing become more involved, and announcements be posted in Blackboard. Susy will talk to Raja about the possibility of putting the evaluations in Blackboard, and invite him to speak at the next meeting.

d. Areas of Intervention for Distance Learning students

April Whalen is asking the DLC to submit data requests for information to her. Dr. Cook formed a student progress committee to bridge faculty/student silos. Ellucian CRM Advise tool can flag students for intervention by advisors, but faculty must enable the

tool in Blackboard. April will send more info to the DLC for review. Erasmus will meet with April to discuss further. This will be an agenda item at the next meeting.

e. Distance Learning quality assurance task force

The report from the task force from 3 years ago will be put in the google folder. The DLC voted favorably to form a subcommittee to review the report. The goal is to have a process to assure quality of courses. Quality review is a SACS requirement. This is a time sensitive matter.

f. SARA

Texas is part of SARA but ACC is not. ACC can process the SARA application while working on compliance. Clark has reviewed the SARA requirements and marked the items that need to be addressed. This will be available in the google folder for review. The DLC voted to move forward updating best practices in the administrative rule to ensure compliance with interregional guidelines.

g. Video captioning for DL courses

ACC offers media captioning services for faculty to meet ADA compliance. There is a two-week turn-around time. VCT will offer 600 minutes of free captioning to all Texas colleges through Rev.com beginning in March. Additional captioning will cost 99 cents a minute.

III. Updates

a. Testing

The new Distance testing form is online and has streamlined the procedure. Proctor U is available. There are 5 students this spring. Overall 168 students have signed up. 13 faculty members have used the service.

b. Potential online programs

There are 18 potentially fully online programs. This includes 8 certificates, 6 AA, 3 AAS and 1 AS. Erasmus will work with the deans to ensure that the programs continue to be available online. Distance Testing must be available.

c. Data review

The folder will be updated and available to the committee before spring break.

d. Modes in DL

There are 2 modes in DL. HYD and ONL. Courses that require students to come on campus must be listed as HYD. There will be a further discussion at the next meeting.

IV. Future meeting, April 7, HLC 2216, 1-2:30.