

Distance Learning Committee

March 21, 2014

Minutes

Introductions – 16 members out of 24 in attendance

Approval of October 2013 meeting minutes

Discussion of committee charge and membership:

Per Mike Midgley's fall 2013 request for the Shared Governance Council, an online vote was taken in February to make alterations to the DLC membership and functions.

The Distance Learning Counselor was approved to be added as an Ex-Officio member.

Function number four (Provides input on distance learning faculty and student handbooks) was removed from committee functions.

There was additional discussion on the remaining functions and it was suggested that a small group begin to examine them and work on refinements and developing processes to address each.

Update on Faculty Evaluations:

Kirk Kelly's response to Robert Bermea's inquiries as to the status of the improved DL evaluation instrument was discussed.

Essentially there has been no change. DL students are still utilizing the previous version. Kirk indicated issues with approval from ACAC as well as some technological matters, utilizing Class Climate. No one in attendance that had attended ACAC meetings recalled the issue being brought forth.

Clark indicated that he would follow up with Kirk regarding any change.

DLC Student Services motions:

In the October DLC meeting a motion was made to prioritize the completion and implementation of DL orientation modules. An update was presented that the modules were nearing completion and testing would begin by summer and likely made available by fall.

In direct reply to questions about Student Services representation on the DLC, the DL Counselor was approved as an added Ex-Officio member through a vote in February.

In response to concerns about "too many Distance Learning Committees" at ACC, a discussion was had with Kathleen Christensen. It was determined that each committee, taskforce or

workgroup could be valuable to success, but that we could hopefully cultivate closer relationships between them.

DL Taskforce Update:

The Distance Learning Taskforce was created by Mike Midgley from the Distance Learning Committee in 2012. The focus was to address high withdrawal rates and discrepancy between DL and face to face classes.

Literary reviews were completed in summer 2013 and focus groups for students and faculty were accomplished in November 2013. Currently all data is being assembled to analyze.

Later in 2014 a report and recommendations should be presented to DLC and ACC Administration.

Robert Bermea's DL Status Report:

Robert expressed concern that though ACC has an Administrative Rule for Best Practices, there are no processes or procedures to document how ACC is complying which could have serious impacts from SACSCOC or the Dept of Ed.

Distance Testing was approved by the DLC as an option for all online courses in March 2012. Though there has been discussion in various committees and even a meeting to visit WGU to see how they handled this issue, there has been no further action on this resolution.

The group did have some suggestions for making Distance Testing more acceptable: allowing only a certain number from each class, making clear the student's responsibilities in the process, etc. There was also discussion of trying out ProctorU as a possible option.