

DITC 10/10/05

Product Demo: Smart Classrooms

Jim Petromilli, DITC Facilitator, opened the meeting with some very positive news—CSMs Building 18, which for the last number of months has been undergoing a major remodel, has been completed under budget and ahead of its January 2006 schedule.

Jim went on to discuss how each Smart classroom features:

- 4 assigned faculty laptops
- 360 degree desk and chairs
- 3% to full blackout shades
- 1 remote control
- Pixie switch to control sound and projector
- DVD.VCR availability
- Ceiling mounted speakers for little or no noise in nearby classrooms

Next, attendees toured the entire building, which includes a foreign language lab, speech lab, writing classroom, and completely remodeled bathrooms.

Comments Regarding the Smart Classrooms:

Students like the classrooms and feel they help promote learning.

Eric Raznick mentioned there are no computers in these rooms since Faculty will use one of four laptops assigned to each room, or they will bring their own.

--Jim says this will cut down on maintenance issue like viruses etc.

Betty asked how Adjunct Faculty laptop use issues would be addressed.

--Susan Estes on behalf of Mike Claire comments on how faculty laptop assignments are issued.

--Marilynn McBride of Canada says each campus has laptops dedicated to their Division office and they may be borrowed or check out as needed.

Steve noticed the number of electrical outlets available for student use.

--Jim pointed out that electrical outlets and pre-wired classrooms ready to become Smart Classrooms when needed were a part of the thinking that went along with the smart classrooms.

The Proposed Plan to Increase FTES

Identify one or more technology platforms that will facilitate rapid development and deployment of online classes:

Jim asks the attendees "What would get you excited?"

--Kathleen says compensation for printing cost is important since online requires more printing than a regular class environment.

--Eric asks how the workload of an online instructor compares to that of a traditional in-class instructor and wonders how we go about balancing the workload.

--Julie says it takes lots of work in the beginning but gets easier after about three years.

--Richard comments on taking CTL workshops and how great they are and hopes that the technology associated with teaching online classes will be a fairly easy to use.

--Betty and Julie are currently working on an evaluation form to continue standards for Best Practices from the Academic Senate.

--Pete mentions that we need to provide training to those instructors who would like to teach fully online courses. Desire does not equal ability.

--Susan says release time is very important but be careful with that since it may defeat the purpose.

Tech Platforms:

The CTL will be arranging informal workshops and meetings to discuss the positives and negatives of each of the following learning platforms: WebCT, SAKAI, BlackBoard and Etudes NG.

Comments

Judy mentioned the importance of classes being accessible to all students--those with a wide range of disabilities.

Loretta spoke of electronic library reservation systems

Eric asked about other electronic vendors.

Jim stated the importance of login tracking

Peter wanted us not to forget the importance of offering an exemplary education and made the point that we're not even sure if students receive a quality educational experience via online classes. Perhaps we should research this.

Ricardo wondered how we'll verify the right student is doing the work in online courses?

Jeanne mentioned hybrid classes have merit.

Jim "teach once deliver many" idea of video-taping an instructor's class, then archiving the video for use asynchronously by students who couldn't make the class, like SF State or UC Santa Cruz.

Felix mentioned CCC Confer workshops online with textbook support and focus on quality and flexibility

Betty say there are special markets out there for online classes, like managed care institutions, jails, hospitals.

Opportunity:

Frank mentioned that DATA MART is being considered for market research regarding the feasibility of our offering online classes.

Judy wants to know what other colleges are doing.

Jim said online instruction is very successful in central CA, but acknowledged that there situation is different from ours and that they only have 10,000 students enrolled.

Discussion:

Susan mentioned the Film online class filled with 50 students immediately.

Betty Fleming: Telecourse Coordinator said we should review offerings in all Distant Education classes and mentioned that there is a false notion among students that online learning is easier, that we should not forget there should be an appropriate sequence for graduating on time.

Kathleen felt that some courses, such as developmental writing, should be taught in person and not online.

Peter talked about how SLO's and course exit exams could help ensure students learn what they're supposed to learn in a class. He also mentioned the need to safeguard instructors' Academic Freedom as we consider course management systems--which in many cases limit an instructor's ability to teach as he/she wants. As long as a student learns what he/she should in a class, the instructor should be free to determine what techniques/materials will be used to achieve that end.

Jim feels we need to get involved and that it is not too soon. Suggests that if we don't get involved now, others will get involved for us.

SAKAI training will be held at Canada 10/14/05 and an eCollege presentation will be given at the Skyline CTL 10/20/05.

Bridgette is developing a small online Art class demo of SAKAI

There is a recommendation for early 2006.