

SMCCCD Distance Education Advisory Committee

Notes from the meeting May 18, 2007

The meeting was called to order at 1:00 pm by Vice Chancellor Luan.

Attendees: SMCCCD: Jing Luan, Vice Chancellor; Kathy Blackwood, CFO; Jim Petromilli, CTL Director; Jasmine Witham, ITS.

<u>Cañada</u>	<u>CSM</u>	<u>Skyline</u>
Dani Castillo	Ron Brown	Nick Kapp
Katie Townsend-Merino	Arlene Fajardo	
	Betty Fleming	
	Marilyn Lawrence, KCSM	

The meeting was called to order at 1:00 pm by Vice Chancellor Luan.

m/s/c with three abstentions to approve the minutes of the April 20th meeting.

Vice Chancellor Luan announced that Marilyn Lawrence , General Manger of KCSM, is replacing Grace Sonner as co-chair of the Resources Committee.

Subcommittee Reports

Course Offerings: Nick Kapp noted that the document “SMCCD Distance Education Policies Draft” was presented at the previous meeting 4/20/07; there is no new report. A definition of “course designer” was requested, and can be explained as experts in online learning who would put subject elements together to produce an online course. Katie Townsend-Merino suggested using the words “production designer” instead. “Faculty consultants” is understood to mean faculty who help and/or advise in the development of a course. Faculty could choose the option to design a course themselves. Discussion followed of various ways of distributing the labor involved, and relating compensation to the proportion of effort.

Vice Chancellor Luan feels that the subcommittee should have done more research and discussion, then arrived at a recommendation to DEAC. Dean Townsend-Merino noted that we seem to be comfortable with having choices of design options, with proportionate compensation.

Questions discussed:

Who decides a course will be developed for online presentation?

- The decision is made by academic deans with faculty input.

How will a course which could/would be offered throughout the district be decided upon?

- In current practice, a Distance Education addendum to the course outline must go to each college’s curriculum committee.

Issues: Who pays for development?
When, how and by whom is coordination between the colleges done?
Should we be paying three times for development of the same course?
The colleges are separate entities (in accreditation and budget, etc.) and develop curriculum separately.

At this juncture, Vice Chancellor Luan asked the Resources Subcommittee to report back on these issues.

Resources Subcommittee: Marilyn Lawrence noted that Eileen O'Brien, CSM/ Counseling, had joined the subcommittee, and distributed a list with additional issues. Questions and discussion:

It is in the best interest of the District to train faculty. Incentives should be provided for those who participate in training.

Training and/or experience in teaching through distance learning could be included in preferred qualifications for faculty.

Compensation issues: Should compensation for upgraded content apply exclusively to online classes? It is not offered for on-campus classes. Declining compensation for subsequent course development is a possibility. One member remarked that faculty, especially in areas which change rapidly, are not content to donate their work. It is not defensible to compensate differently in various departments or colleges. A list of concerns from AFT was made available to the committee by Ron Brown.

Vice Chancellor Luan pointed out that we should be careful about the notion of compensation, as it relates to negotiated contract. It would best to consider incentives in the forms of stipends.

The committee then discussed distance education course definitions, and noted the need for clarity in preparation for briefing at the Chancellor's Cabinet meeting on May 22nd. The group agreed that "online class" would mean a class conducted wholly online. Vice Chancellor Luan noted that the Resources Subcommittee list could not be presented as endorsed by DEAC.

Technology Subcommittee: Margery Meadows presented cost information from a contract proposal from Blackboard to Ventura CC, and Jim Petromilli noted that there are currently 52 faculty members are using WebACCESS for 169 active classes (including online, hybrid and web-assisted classes), with a total enrollment of 1500 students. Costs will be posted on the DEAC Share Point site. eCollege uses "pay as you go" billing, charging \$43 per enrollment in online classes, and approximately half the amount per student in hybrid classes. Jim Petromilli proposed, and the group agreed by consensus that the district adopt two Course Management Systems, WebACCESS and eCollege.

DEAC Co-Chairs Daniela Castillo and Jing Luan noted that self-assessment of the committee would be an ongoing responsibility, and that progress has been slow but clear over the year. DEAC members have an obligation to communicate proceedings to their respective constituencies and colleges.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:10pm.

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