

## SMCCCD Distance Education Advisory Committee

### Notes from April 20, 2007

The meeting was called to order at 1:15pm by Vice Chancellor Luan.

Attendees: SMCCCD: Jing Luan, Vice Chancellor; Eric Raznick, ITS Director, Jim Petromilli, CTL Director

<u>Cañada</u>	<u>CSM</u>	<u>Skyline</u>
Dani Castillo	Ron Brown	Margery Meadows
Alma Cervantes	Betty Fleming	Nick Kapp
Patty Dilko	KCSM: Marilyn Lawrence	

Regina Stroud was presenting an award at the California Academic Senate Plenary Session.

The minutes of March 16, 2007 meeting were reviewed, and Nick Kapp noted that he had not attended that meeting. Patty Dilko recalled that under the Course Offerings discussion the question of who our (DE) students are was raised ; are we serving a local population or a wider audience?

Msc: that the minutes of the March 16, 2007 meeting be tentatively approved, pending the addition of the discussion noted above.

#### Subcommittee Reports

**Course Offerings Subcommittee** : Nick Kapp, co-chair, deferred to Patty Dilko to present the subcommittee report (copy attached). Ms. Dilko developed the draft policy statements from Mt. San Jacinto College's material, with permission, and the subcommittee suggested some revisions. The draft was developed to have something specific to discuss, rather than trying to consider too many issues.

There was animated discussion of different viewpoints on the selection of courses for development, and whether or not to include paid course designers.

There is concern for who will determine which classes will be developed and offered. It has not been an issue thus far. Faculty want to follow "best practices," while maintaining independence. Mr. Kapp stated that he and others would rather spend time and effort keeping current in their subject matter rather than on technology and software. Ms. Dilko noted that the document presented consists of policy proposals to provide for a variety of approaches, and asked DEAC members to review it thoroughly.

Jim Petromilli advocated for using professional course designers to build the framework for online courses in conjunction with faculty consultation. There was

strong objection to the concept, including issues of content ownership, evaluation (should or would course shells be included in program review?), and academic freedom.

The DEAC co-chairs recommend that the subcommittee meet, along with Mr. Petromilli and Ms. Castillo, to review and discuss the proposal and provide a written policy recommendation for the May 18<sup>th</sup> DEAC meeting.

**Resources Subcommittee:** Ron Brown presented issues which had been identified by the subcommittee along with some compensation options (report attached). The issues need to be further explored and discussed, and we need to develop policies which are consistent throughout the district. Compensation and ownership issues have a history in the district and in colleges throughout the country. Precedents for different ownership models were discussed, as well as the possibility of different compensation levels for different proportions of ownership. The point was raised that some items discussed by the Resources Subcommittee may belong to negotiation, and caution is strongly advised.

Nick Kapp brought up additional issues of resources for DE students, such as counseling, equipment loans and online readiness assessment and tutorials. Should a certain level of readiness be a requirement for taking an online class?

Since so many of the issues are of concern to both the Resources and Course Offerings Subcommittees, should Resources wait upon the findings of the Course Offerings Subcommittee? The co-chairs suggested that the subcommittees work concurrently, but also consider the findings of other subcommittees.

**Technology Subcommittee:** Margery Meadows presented the recommendation of the Technology subcommittee that two course management systems be supported by the district, eCollege and WebAccess. The dual platforms will complement each other and offer faculty two options for building their courses. Faculty can choose the platform that meets their specific needs, providing more freedom and promoting creativity during the course development stage. The Technology Subcommittee will present a written report with the rationale for their recommendation, including costs, applications, etc. at the next DEAC meeting, May 18.

Dr. Luan described the process involved in carrying the Subcommittee recommendation to DEAC, to the Chancellor's Council, and to the Board of Trustees for adoption. He envisions a meeting with all interested faculty to explain the process and selection.

m/s/c (one abstention) That DEAC accept the recommendation of the Technology Subcommittee regarding platform selection, i.e. use both

WebACCESS and eCollege, and forward the recommendation to the Chancellor's Council.

### **Self Assessment:**

Dr. Luan expressed concern about dwindling attendance at DEAC meetings, and asked DEAC members to get the word out to all constituencies. He agreed to provide information to *The Advocate*, including directing interest to the DEAC public website, created by Jasmine Witham and Suki Chang:

<http://www.smccd.edu/accounts/smccd/departments/educationservices/deac/default.shtml>

Dr. Luan will also send a note to the faculty senates at each college.

Calendar consideration for Fall 07 – Should DEAC meet less often? The use of technology for meetings at a distance was suggested; we will try to use CCCConfer for the May meeting.

### **Follow-up items for next meeting, May 18, 2007:**

The DEAC co-chairs recommend that the Course Offerings Subcommittee meet, along with Mr. Petromilli and Ms. Castillo, to review and discuss the proposal and provide a written policy recommendation for the May 18<sup>th</sup> DEAC meeting.

Resources Subcommittee: The co-chairs suggested that the subcommittees work concurrently, but also consider the findings of other sub-committees. Some items discussed by the Resources Subcommittee may belong to negotiation, and caution is strongly advised. A written report including both faculty and student issues will be prepared for the next DEAC meeting.

The Technology Subcommittee will present a written report with the rationale for their recommendation, including costs, applications, etc. at the next DEAC meeting, May 18.

*Subcommittees are encouraged to post their reports on the DEAC SharePoint site in advance of the next meeting.*