

SMCCCD Distance Education Advisory Committee

Notes from November 13, 2006 Meeting

Attendees: SMCCCD: Ron Galatolo, Chancellor; Jing Luan, Vice Chancellor; Kathy Blackwood, CFO; Jim Petromilli, CTL Director; Eric Raznick, ITS Director

<u>Cañada</u>	<u>CSM</u>	<u>Skyline</u>
Marilyn McBride, VPI	Michael Claire, VPI	Regina Stroud, VPI
Daniela Castillo	Diana Bennett	Alma Cervantes
Patty Dilko	Ron Brown	Virginia Gianoli
Katie Townsend-Merino	Arlene Fajardo	Nick Kapp
	Betty Fleming	Marjorie Meadows
Jonathan Vasquez, student	Marilyn Lawrence, KCSM	

Chancellor Galatolo opened the meeting with a welcome, and noted that Distance Education is not new to SMCCCD, but now has added emphasis. Distance Education is an added facet which will complement on-campus classes, by providing added access to higher education. Students now learn very differently than before, using online resources in a much more enriching environment. The question concerning Distance Education is not if, but when and how to embrace the possibilities of technology to provide additional choices to students. Using other modes of delivery expands the borders of our student service area.

Technology is transforming the way we teach and the way students learn. How far we take it, and use it to frame the future, depends upon the assembled committee to formulate. The Committee will be advisory to the executive leadership and the Board of Trustees.

– Does the District feel strongly enough to take some bold steps to support Distance Education organizationally? -- The Chancellor does, and feels it is integral to the ongoing success of this district.

Vice Chancellor Luan described the committee charge and resources contained in binders provided for each member of the committee. The committee will have use of an internal work site through Share Point to convey information, announcements, share resources, etc. Jasmine Witham of ITS will help as necessary; an e-mail will be sent to each member as access is established. Total access to the DEAC site will be limited to this group only; public access for minutes, future plans, etc. could be a clearly labeled part of the site.

Three work groups will be established (following the model of Jeff Basos of Amazon, each will be no larger than can be fed by a large pizza) in the areas of Course Offerings, Resources and Technology. Each group will have co-chairs, and a faculty volunteer to co-chair the committee at large with Dr. Luan will be sought.

Open Forum – Comments:

- Castillo – Faculty load is a serious concern, as well as compensation for course development.
- Petromilli – We should take a strategic view, and learn from other colleges by creating a virtual campus and a program framework for online and other DE classes, and offer support for development, including curriculum designers.
- Dilko - Perhaps a virtual support division is needed. Policy and training are first priorities.
- Townsend - Merino – Help is needed for faculty – an Academic Technology Resource Center.
- Claire – We need to carefully define terms and recognize DE in the continuum of overall educational programs.
- Petromilli – We need a virtual campus or division specifically for DE.
- Kapp – We should research the student population and the competition. We need to maintain a student-centered orientation.
- Blackwood – Like starting any new program, we should assess needs and use that as a focus.
- Stroud – Other districts in the Bay Area have considerable online enrollment. Faculty support and development resources are urgently needed to be able to offer the courses needed... We need a coherent, comprehensive approach to Distance Learning.
- Meadows – Has researched other colleges, especially training reports. Recommends “Making the Grade: Online Education 2005-06/ Breaking the code”
- Cervantes – Carpool training is not the most effective method of faculty development. Compensation for course development is important!
- Bennett – Faculty wants and needs training in “distance pedagogy” as well as technology. Tuition is not covered by professional development grants.
- Blackwood – Resources are limited; we must focus on priorities.
- McBride – Recalls that instructional development money was provided early on. Does the district have the commitment to put money into training and technological resources? We need to maintain enrollment standards, as well (minimums).
- Townsend - Merino – Growth will be in concentric circles...time/ support/ training.
- Petromilli – Very impressed by successful DE programs at other colleges described at a recent conference. We need institutional decisions re: which classes to develop, and support resources for students, also.
- Stroud – Points mentioned are not exclusive. We need not concentrate on abstract debate.
- Kapp – Faculty are very interested, and are close to students, so are able to identify needs. More support is needed; time is not necessarily available for faculty to take on additional commitments.
- Castillo – Likes the model of Savannah College of Art and Design – instructors have active input to course development, but are not responsible for nit-picky details (do not have to learn Flash, etc.).

Vice Chancellor Luan noted that he appreciated concerns and strong interest in DE among faculty. He said we need to value and reward faculty development, and support students in the DE environment. Distance Education classes should be offered in a coherent, well planned manner, balancing the needs of the community the three colleges serve. As such, this committee will be responsible for district-wide planning of DE.

Petromilli – The DEAC should develop vision first, and subcommittees will be driven by that vision.

Castillo – Subcommittees could each address a vision of their own. The model should be independent of platform (CMS).

Cervantes – Movement is already underway; we are jumping on the cart.

Kapp – Let us move forward to frame or design the organization.

Stroud – Organization of a support structure should be district-wide. Curriculum will stay within colleges and divisions.

Townsend-Merino – A support center is needed at each campus. Intellectual property of faculty should be protected.

Claire – The challenge in developing a vision for Distance Education is to consider all facets of distance learning.

Brown – There are issues re: who has priority to teach a DE class – tenured or adjunct faculty.

Stroud – There is no difference from current methods of instruction.

Bennett – Do not limit consideration to “online” classes.

Raznick – What will this committee do which will be different from what is done now?

McBride – We need a range of training for more people. The choice of a particular Course Management System is not yet decided, and other issues being discussed have not yet been decided.

Dr. Luan closed the discussion and asked for members to choose teams for working groups. The groups are: (* indicates co-chairs)

Course Offerings

*Marilyn McBride
*Nick Kapp
Alma Cervantes
Patty Dilko
Betty Fleming
Virginia Gianoli
Jonathan Vasquez

Resource

*Mike Claire
*Ron Brown
Diana Bennett
Kathy Blackwood
Arlene Fajardo
Katie Townsend-Merino

Technology

*Regina Stroud
*Marjorie Meadows
Dani Castillo
Marilyn Lawrence
Eric Raznick

Daniella Castillo volunteered to serve as co-chair of the DEAC.

The next meeting of the DEAC will be January 19, 2007, from 1 – 3 pm in the Board Room of the District Office. Subcommittees will meet before that date.