

Distance Education Committee
Wednesday, March 11, 2009
Meeting Minutes

Attendees:

Shawn Wood	Aimee Guerin
Bonnie Black	Greg Pratt
Beth Alsen	Kate Mohler
Sheila Merritt	Lo-An Tabar-Gaul
Linda Collins	Chris Heid
John Seims	Ted Christensen

- I. Common Entry for Online Classes – Three presentations were made to explore the different options for implementing one entry for all online students.
 - A. Ken Kuhns, Wade Harris and Melanie Kroening – Presented information on using MYMCC portal as the online door.
 - B. Jonathan Baney – Presented information of using an instructional landing page that would guide the student to an online door located in the LMS (WebCT). Pathway could include going to WEBCT login or the MYMCC portal.
 - C. John Seims – Presented information on sending all online students to MCC Online (New and Continuing Online Student link). A landing page titled, “How do I find my class?” would guide students through the MyMCC portal to the online class door in WEBCT.

After much discussion and questions, **the committee voted unanimously to support the option proposed by John Seims which would send all online students to MCC Online and use the LMS (WEBCT) as the online class door. Students would be sent to WEBCT via MYMCC portal. This recommendation will be taken to Faculty Senate for approval.** It was also recommended that references noting WEBCT not be used and terminology to note links and information be more descriptive and student friendly.

- II. Greg Pratt recommended the committee support two proposals:
 - A. Proposal #1 - “The DEC acknowledges the process the MCC Online Economics Faculty have begun during the 2008-2009 academic year to apply Quality Matters to the online economics offering at MCC through a continuous process of review of online economics curriculum and delivery of that curriculum and to formalize preparation by economics faculty to teach online. DEC supports the mission of MCC online faculty to be inclusive, collaborative, transparent and results oriented in this ongoing process.”

Clarification and discussion of this request ensued. While economic faculty were praised and acknowledged for their efforts, some members felt that other departments/disciplines were currently involved in and/or had implemented successful online initiatives as well. The need to profile these initiatives was discussed. A suggestion was made to modify the request recommending that an addition noting disciplines/departments utilize the Best Practices (already adopted by Faculty Senate) and Quality Matters in their online class development and review processes. Discussion continued in regards to what we would be asking Faculty Senate to support. Due to time constraints this matter was tabled and will be discussed further at the April meeting.

B. Proposal #2: The DEC consider a modification of the Distance Learning Mentoring Grant to allow support to faculty more than one time who have met the following conditions:

1. All conditions/expectations of the first experience were satisfied.
2. The faculty member has completed CIS 236 or CIS 237.
3. There has been demonstrable and significant change in instructional technology or pedagogy so significant as to require major investments in resources to incorporate.
4. The class is a high priority for the discipline, department and/or MCC online.
5. The faculty member is uniquely positioned to deliver the class through support.

This proposal was discussed. Issues related to faculty responsibilities and the need to have a different mentoring experience for those experienced with online development vs. those who have never developed an online class before were brought up. **The committee agreed to support an Advanced Distance Learning Mentoring process that will allow faculty to apply for support multiple times. This recommendation will be taken to Faculty Senate.**

III. New Items:

- A. A request to podcast the DEC committees was discussed. The committee agreed to the podcasting of guest speakers (with their approval) but that the committee meetings in general would not be podcast.
- B. The Readiness Student Skills Assessment was mentioned but time constraints did not allow for active discussion of it. This will be placed on the April agenda.
- C. Ted Christensen will be leaving MCC on April 3, 2009. A special acknowledgement and thanks was given for all of his hard work and efforts related to the development of MCC Online.

IV. Update on Old Items:

A. Shawn Woods reported that Faculty Senate approved the items related to hybrids. He also noted that two Chair representatives have been designated, Linda Collins and Steve Budge to participate in DEC so communication between DEC and chairs can be enhanced.

B. The first changes to the MCC Online web site have been done. DEC members were asked to review it and send their feedback before the next meeting.

C. While time did not allow for discussion of the MCC Online model, DEC members were encouraged to think about it and be prepared to offer ideas at the next meeting. This is a great opportunity for faculty to have a voice in the development of this model. Ted Christensen emphasized that hybrid issues and needs may be different than online. **John Seims recommended that the committee support the creation of a Blended Learning/Hybrid Committee. This was voted on and passed. A recommendation will be made to Faculty Committee to create this new committee.**

VI. Next Meeting:

April 8th, 2009 at 1:30pm in the CTL Conference Room