

Distance Education Advisory Committee Minutes of the Meeting of April 9, 2015

Members Present: Gregory Anderson, Leonor Cabrera, Gloria Darafshi, Candice Nance, Lisa Palmer, Jane Rice, Janet Stringer, Julian Taylor

Members Absent: Peter Bruni, Chialin Hsieh, Don Lariviere, Ana Miladinova,

Guests: Jenny Castello, Dick Claire, Jeanne Digel, Valeria Estrada, Sarah Harmon, Pam Jones, Margaret Kaluzny, Hyla Lacefield, Anniqua Rana, Edith Schneider, Po Tong, Jasmine Witham, Lale Yurtseven

Janet Stringer called the meeting to order at 2:45 pm.

Approval of Minutes

Minutes of the DEAC meeting on March 5, 2015, were approved.

Online Education Initiative (OEI) Presentation and Discussion

The meeting was devoted to discussion of the Online Education Initiative and the opportunities it might offer Cañada.

Gregory Anderson reported that he learned from the meeting of the Research and Planning Group in Sacramento earlier this week that many other colleges are already very involved in the various initiatives of the OEI.

Janet Stringer presented an overview of the main components of the OEI and their current status, and she led a discussion of whether and how our college and district should get involved with the component initiatives.

Purpose and Goals of the OEI

The purpose of the OEI is "to increase student success and completion by working together to increase access to quality online courses and support services for students." Special attention is being given to support services that are tailored to the diverse needs of community college students.

Goals include:

- Expand student access to quality online courses by providing support for course improvements aligned with common quality standards and by facilitating cross-college enrollment
- Increase student success and completion with support and services such as tutoring, online learning readiness, and basic skills support
- Encourage faculty and staff involvement with professional development, instructional design support, networking, and content resources

- Improve access to courses and services through an innovative common online learning environment
- Leverage cost through system-wide licensing

Course Exchange

The centerpiece of the OEI is the online course exchange, which is intended to improve access to quality online courses through a system for cross-college enrollments. A pilot for participating colleges will begin in fall 2015. None of the colleges in our district are participating in the course exchange pilot. The exchange is expected to be operational within two years, with logistics and details for registration and transfer of credit yet to be worked out.

Online Tutoring

The Online Education Consortium has contracted with Link-Systems International (LSI) to use their NetTutor service for courses in the exchange and to offer this service to all California community colleges at a reduced rate. In addition, LSI's tutoring platform, called WorldWideWhiteboard, is already available for use without charge by any community college in the state for its own tutoring services.

Discussion of online tutoring focused on these three questions:

1. What additional information about the OEI tutoring service do you want/need to discuss adoption at Canada College?

Participants' responses included these views and questions:

- Can we use the eTutoring platform for online office hours?
 - Tutors should be a mix of Cañada students and company tutors, but students getting tutored need to know when Cañada students are tutoring.
 - Who are NetTutor's tutors? What are their qualifications?
 - How much instructor material would they have/want access to?
2. Who (at Canada) should participate in this discussion and decision? -
Participants mentioned these people and groups: Learning Center Director and/or Tutor Coordinator, current online tutors and/or professors
 3. Should this be a college or district decision?
One group said it should be a college decision, and four groups thought it should be a district decision.

Student Readiness Modules

There online readiness modules include the Smarter Measure Assessment, which is a diagnostic tool that gives students immediate feedback about their strengths and weaknesses as they relate to online learning. The six readiness modules are:

- Module 1: Introduction to Online learning
- Module 2: Getting Tech Ready
- Module 3: Organizing for Online Success
- Module 4: Online Study Skills and Managing Time
- Module 5: Communication Skills for Online Learning
- Module 6: Online Reading Strategies

Pilot colleges began using these in January 2015, and the modules are supposed to be available to all colleges at no cost by fall 2015.

Discussion of the online readiness modules focused on these three questions:

1. What additional information about the OEI tutoring service do you want/need to discuss adoption at Canada College?
Participants' responses included these views and questions:
 - Who at Canada would support students who have questions?
 - Would there be an online orientation as a prerequisite for online courses and would this be tied to Banner?
 - How often will the modules be updated?
2. Who (at Canada) should participate in this discussion and decision? -
Participants mentioned these people: current online teaching faculty, online student support person, maybe retention specialist.
3. Should this be a college or district decision?
One group said it should be a college decision, and three groups thought it should be a district decision.

Common Course Management System

1. What additional information about Canvas do you want/need to discuss adoption at Canada College? Should we have a few faculty pilot use of Canvas?
Participants' responses included these views and questions:
 - Yes to pilots. We should have a range of course types, including online, hybrid, and face-to-face.
 - What would be involved in the migration?
 - Is it possible to import publishers' materials?
 - What would be the timeline and the overlap with the current system?
 - Could we get @One training support?
2. Who (at Canada) should participate in this discussion and decision? -
Participants mentioned these people: committee of current online faculty, new users, and students
3. Should this be a college or district decision?
All groups thought it should be a district decision.

Course Design Rubric

1. How could the OEI rubric be used at Canada College?
Participants' responses included these views and questions:
 - Use as a teaching tool/model for explaining what a great course includes
 - Might be problematic, if it doesn't take into account different subjects
2. Who (at Canada) should participate in this discussion and decision about the use you considered? -
Participants mentioned these people: Faculty teaching online, Academic Senate (or just Curriculum committee), AFT, DE committee

Additional OEI Components

An online counseling network and a statewide proctoring network are also being planned.

Generally, there seemed to be interest in the implications of the OEI work for our online program and our college and a strong feeling that products and services should be evaluated and adopted district-wide.

The meeting adjourned at 4:15 pm.

Submitted by Jane Rice