Distance Learning Committee Meeting

Minutes

Meeting date/time/Place: October 14th, 2010, 2:30 – 3:30, Bldg. P Room 108

Attending: Dr. Mark Horrell, Dr. Meg McManus, Elizabeth Morgan, Julie Nichols, Nishant Patel, John Patten, Ray Rickman, Anthony Russo, Dr. Anne Southard, Lisa Spikes, Mike Van Dyke, Heidi Kolen

Regrets: Sherry Ward, Rhonda Trueman, Ray Rickman

1. SACS Briefing: Dr. Southard reminded the committee that SACS will be on campus October, 18 – 20th. She reminded our committee that all courses and programs, traditional and distance learning, are seen as one campus (there is not a separate division strictly for distance learning).

   She also briefed the committee on student learning outcome evaluations and the fact that LTECH keeps statistics and runs reports showing comparative data. The reports can be found on the LTECH website.

2. Social Networking: Dr. McManus wanted to know where the college stands on the topic of social networking. Dr. Southard explained there is a social networking committee that tries to meet monthly and that the college is doing research on how other colleges are handling social networking policy.

3. Text Based Courses: Dr. McManus wanted to know where the college is on phasing out text based courses. Dr. Southard explained text based courses are slowly being phased into either blended or full distance learning courses and that they are being handled on a case-by-case basis.

4. Web Required/Web Supplemental Curriculum: Dr. McManus expressed concerns that her class requires Internet use, but does not require a D2L course shell and was wondering where her class is categorized: web required or web supplemental. Dr. Southard explained that the college did not get rid of the web required categorization; the college has only discontinued using the form.

5. D2L Course Shell Standardization: Mrs. Nichols and Mrs. Kolen communicated some student frustrations with lack of consistency in curriculum presentation across different faculty members. The committee discussed the need to maintain the Professors’ individualism and professional choices regarding curriculum presentation and facilitation but also discussed reviewing course shells for forming ideas towards a solution to easy student confusion.
6. Around the room
   1. Elizabeth Morgan is going to determine whether web supplemental or web required is printed on students registration receipts.
   2. Mike Van Dyke is going to review what other colleges are doing in regard to requiring Internet and computer use. Dr. Southard suggested looking into St. Pete’s and Chipola’s policies.
   3. John Patton discussed the Policies/Syllabus link in the D2L course shells and the fact that the link currently goes to the faculty listings. The committee discussed a variety of alternatives and decided it would be best to post a notice to contact the Professor.