AGENDA
Distributed Learning Council (DLC)
Friday November 16, 2012

Action Items

1. Approval of September 21, 2012 Minutes-Justin Louder

Discussion and Information Item

2. T-Bug Update-TLPDC Instructional Designers
3. WCET-Justin, Tom, and David
4. Blackboard Update-Kathy Austin
5. Accessibility Compliance Taskforce-Kathy Austin
6. Web Content Management Software Implementation – Kathy Austin
7. New Graduate Certificate-Justin Louder
8. Open Discussion

Other
Members Present: Kathy Austin; Hansel Burley; Karissa Greathouse; Melanie Hart; Pat McConnel; Kate St. Clair; Kimberly Vardeman

Members Excused: Matt Baker; James Bush; Don Collier; Cathy Duran; Gary Elbow; Cliff Fedler; Mary Fehr; Robert Gonzalez; Donna Hamilton; Glenn Hill; James Hoffman; Patrick Hughes; Michael Keller; John Kobza; Julie Martenson; Valerie Paton; Nicci Price; Robert Stubblefield; Vickie Sutton; Suzanne Tapp; Vicki West; Kent Wilkinson

Guests Present: Karen Alexander on behalf of Jean Scott; Kari Dickson of behalf of Rial Rolfe; Veronica Sanchez; David Johnson; Tom Dolan

The meeting was called to order at 12:40 p.m. by Justin Louder. Louder welcomed the DLC members to the meeting.

Action Items

1. Approval of (September 2012 Minutes - Justin Louder (Attachment #1)
   No quorum present-unable to vote for acceptance of minutes for the September meeting. Justin stated that there will be no DLC meeting in December due to the Christmas break; meetings will reconvene in January 2013.

Discussion and Information Items

2. T-Bug (Texas Blackboard Users Group) Update - Karissa Greathouse and Veronica Sanchez
   Karissa said she was very impressed with the quality of the 4 keynote speakers: Craig Chanoff (Sr. VP of Blackboard) talked about Blackboard vision and managing online academic integrity; Kyle Bowen from Purdue University discussed "mobile warming" a new approach to student engagement; Dr. Van Davis, special projects coordinator with Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board, discussed the $10,000 Bachelor's degree; Dr. David Metcalf and Dr. Matthew Gerber from the University of Central Florida, discussed innovations in medical education as it applies to online learning. Some other sessions addressed disaster preparedness with Blackboard as well as building blocks, mobile technologies, faculty support strategies and online course design.

   Veronica stated the biggest take away for her was the exposure to Blackboard Learn and to see how it is laid out compared to the current. She attended a session on "Optimizing your Course for the Web" which talked about having a clear purpose, having objectives easy to find which focused on consistency, perceivability, and navigability. A session was held discussing online teaching certification for any new instructor in the
Lone Star Community College System which focused on effective online teaching, promoting best practices and encouraging and supporting faculty.

3. **WCET-Justin Louder, Tom Dolan and David Johnson**

Justin talked about a pre-conference workshop that they attended on academic integrity in the online classroom. He explained that the Ethics Center at Texas Tech is starting the Southwest Regional Consortium for academic integrity in partnership with the International Center for Academic Integrity at Clemson. The group is trying to get people together from Texas, Oklahoma and New Mexico to come together to talk about what is going on in their schools as well as sharing best practices and ideas. Issues addressed were student authentication for online learning and the idea of partnering with companies (ex. BioSig) that can pull common information, and ask questions throughout the process rather than utilizing usernames and passwords. Justin also attended a session on accessibility and the use of "Dragon Naturally Speaking" for captioning on videos.

David attended several technology sessions that discussed the use of mobile devices and applications in the classroom.

Tom attended policy sessions on the Higher Education Act, the Federal Act and the Opportunity Act which discussed expecting more regulation which would center around cost and accessibility. There was also discussion about eligibility, accreditation and truth in advertising. Tom also attended 2 sessions on reciprocity and state authorizations.

4. **Blackboard Update- Kathy Austin**

Dr. Austin stated the intention to recommission the existing infrastructure (attachment III) and that Blackboard will host our production environment. We have agreed to be discrete regarding our negotiations, given that the CIO negotiated an extremely competitive agreement. Blackboard will be converting, storing and saving the information for us. Dr. Austin presented and explained a handout on the Migration to Hosted Environment timeframe (attachment IV); showing the locally hosted infrastructure being retired in Spring 2014. The TLPDC and TTU IT Division will begin the migration with a faculty pilot in the spring.

5. **Accessibility Compliance Team- Kathy Austin**

Dr. Austin explained that this is a group designated to be an advocate for helping provide IT resources for TTU students with special needs. She announced that Dr. Larry Phillippe will be hosting a Legal Review Roundtable on 12/10/2012 from 3:00 to 4:00PM in TLPDC Room 153. (See attachment II) You may register online at www.tlpd.ttu.edu. Dr. Austin identified the following subcommittees:

- Communications group that is working on ways to help faculty to engage in this topic and be aware of the resources (Chair Allen Young);

- Protocol group is working on process, policy, and function (Chair Dr. Louder); and

- Long Term Strategy group that is preparing a solicitation to identify resources and contract professional services for video captioning services. The TTU Office of the CIO plans to negotiate standing contracts for these services, so TTU no longer be subject to "emergency" pricing.

6. **Web Content Management System Update- Kathy Austin**

Dr. Austin stated that Omni Update, one of the market leaders and the product chosen by the large TTU assessment committee, will replace Luminous. Training is underway, and the IT Division will be
implementing the new solution late this semester and into the spring. She added that the templates have been put in the system and the pilot groups have been identified and are being engaged; she also commented on the simplicity of the software, and that little training would be required.

7. New Graduate Certificate-Justin Louder
   Dr. Louder reiterated that no quorum was present to vote on adopting the new graduate certificate program; he stated that he will be emailing DLC members requesting an electronic vote and hopes to deliver the results at our next meeting.

**Other**

There being no further business to come before the DLC, the meeting was adjourned at 1:30 p.m.
Members Present: Gary Elbow; Karissa Greathouse; Melanie Hart; John Kobza; Justin Louder; Pat McConnel; Jean Scott; Kate St. Clair; Suzanne Tapp; Kimberly Vardeman

Members Excused: Kathy Austin; Matt Baker; Hansel Burley; James Bush; Don Collier; Cathy Duran; Cliff Fedler; Mary Fehr; Robert Gonzalez; Donna Hamilton; Glenn Hill; James Hoffman; Michael Keller; Valerie Paton; Nicci Price; Robert Stubblefield; Vickie Sutton; Vicki West; Kent Wilkinson;

Guests Present: Kari Dickson on behalf of Rial Rolfe; Sarah Foley on behalf of Patrick Hughes; John Sauer on behalf of Julie Martenson; David Johnson; Tom Dolan; Deborah Banker;

The meeting was called to order at 12:45 p.m. by Justin Louder. Louder welcomed the DLC members to the meeting.

Action Items

1. Approval of July 2012 Minutes- Justin Louder (Attachment#)
   Minutes approved and motion passed by the group

Discussion and Information Items

2. State Authorization Update-Justin Louder, Tom Dolan
   Louder stated that the eLearning department is continuing their work on State Authorizations. Kari Dickson added that the Health Sciences Center has recently hired Ryan Henry, a full time staff member to deal primarily with State Authorizations. Louder said that the department is having success in working on states that are free to get authorized in but further in depth discussion is needed to address those states that are charging fees upward of $10,000.00 for authorization and cited an example of Colorado State online spending over $350,000.00 nationwide to get authorized. There are a couple of big national groups that are working on a nationwide agreement but nothing is expected in the immediate future, therefore Louder stated that we still have to make a good faith effort. Group discussion was invited to ask questions or make preliminary recommendations as to how these authorizations could be funded. Suggestions included charging fees to online students in certain states or not admitting students from certain states. Sarah Foley added that she feels that students will get used to the fact that these expenses will be passed on to them but also expressed concern about how this would affect the currently enrolled students as well as Military and Veteran students and exemption statuses in the different states. Tom Dolan added that Arkansas and Massachusetts are a couple of the states that are charging the most to get authorized in, further stating that these fees can be upwards of $10,000.00 per online program. Dolan encouraged anyone interested for further or more specific information to please feel free to contact him at tom.dolan@ttu.edu or 834-0343.
Louder added that these decisions will probably have to be made within this academic term or at least this year. It was agreed that it would be a good idea for the eLearning department to come up with a database by college, of how many online students were in each state that it costs to get authorization in and what programs they were enrolled in to have an idea of what the actual costs would be.

Dolan stated that we are authorized in 22 of the easier states and reiterated the importance of not conducting any academic activity in state and triggering physical presence (study groups, recruiting, internships, practicum, etc.). Louder added that all states must be monitored for any changes that occur.

**Upcoming LTAC Conference at the THECB- Justin Louder**

Louder will be attending the conference for Matt Baker in October. The Doctoral program sub-committee is reviewing a proposal for a new Ph.D. in plant breeding at Texas A & M College Station as an online degree taught both in the US and internationally. LTAC is also continuing the work on a white paper to address legislative concerns on distance education programming particularly related to cost. Part of that has to do with competency based education which is getting more and more push nationwide for schools and programs to develop ways in which students can test out of certain classes not just by CLEP but general learning and work-based skills.

Group discussion was invited. DLC's newest participant, Dr. Deborah Banker from Angelo State University introduced herself. Banker added that Angelo State offers online Master's degree programs in Curriculum and Instruction, Nursing and Security Studies as well as some Bachelor's degree courses.

**Other**

There being no further business to come before the DLC, the meeting was adjourned at 1:15 p.m.

Monday, December 10th
3:00 to 4:00
Room 153, TLPDC

This session is sponsored by the Accessibility Compliance Team (ACT) and will be led by Dr. Larry Phillipee, Managing Director of Student Disability Services. Department chairs and other academic administrators are encouraged to attend. Dr. Phillipee will review current court cases filed by students with disabilities against colleges and universities, including the basis of the lawsuit or complaint, the court ruling, and the impact the ruling has on current practices in higher education and faculty members. Please register online at www.tlpd.ttu.edu.
BlackBoard Infrastructure- Transferring to Hosted Solution

BlackBoard 8.0 Service Pack 6

BBVM·Admin
3 core 3.16 GHz
4GB RAM
Windows 2003 SP2
129.118.154.233

BBVM-JMS1
3 Core 3.16 GHz
4GB RAM
Windows 2003 SP2
129.118.154.235

BBVM1
3 Core LS3 GHz
4GB RAM
Windows 2003 SP2
129.118.154.206
Managed Node A

BBVM2
3 Core 2.53 GHz
4GB RAM
Windows 2003 SP2
129.118.154.107
Managed Node C

BBPH-3
16 Core 2.53 GHz
12GB RAM
Windows 2003 SP2
129.118.154.199
Managed Node D

BBPH-4
8 Core 3 GHz
16GB RAM
Windows 2003 SP2
129.118.154.42
Managed Node E

BBPH-5
8 Core 2.67 GHz
4GB RAM
Windows 2003 SP2
129.118.154.2.12
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BBPH-6
8 Core 3.67 GHz
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16 Core 2.67 GHz
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129.118.154.208
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