

Faculty Senate
Liaison Report – Patricia Watson
Distributed Learning Council

The Distributed Learning Council (DLC) serves in an advisory capacity to the Provost regarding matters related to distributed learning. The Council provides leadership in determining academic policies, procedures and priorities concerning distributed learning. The Council also reviews proposals for distance and off-campus degrees and certificate programs. The Council is chaired by the Dean of Outreach and Distance Education, Matt Baker. Each College, the Law School, and the Library have appointed voting members, as well as a representative from Student Affairs and Enrollment Management. The Faculty Senate Liaison is an ex-officio member of the council.

The Council meets monthly on the second Monday. Meetings in January and March were cancelled because they fell on University holidays.

The DLC's committees are:

Academic Programs and Courses
Awards
Faculty Development
Instructional Technology
Quality Assurance
Research and Scholarship

Recent proposals/initiatives/announcements of the DLC include:

A proposal to have the Principles of Good Practice procedures include a brief online review (similar to the EOC training offered by Human Resources). This training will be required annually for faculty writing/teaching electronically-delivered courses. Contact Sherry Herzog for information. Sherry.herzog@ttu.edu

The TLTC now offers Instructional Design services to assist with the creation of online courses.

The Higher Education Coordinating Board approved an online doctoral program in Higher Education from the College of Education. This program focuses on Community College leadership and was named an exemplary program by THECB. Their proposal will be used as a model for other universities to follow.

TTU is phasing out the support of the Second Life platform "sooner, rather than later."

The use of MediaSite technology to capture live lectures for streaming is being supported campus wide. All classrooms in the new Rawls College of Business will be equipped with the recording technology. The College of Education has two mobile units for recording of lectures. Campus wide implementation and support will make acquisition of this technology much cheaper for those wishing to acquire/use the technology for use in distance education or to support face-to-face courses.

The university is investigating the use of technology called PassFaces as a means of identity authentication in online courses. The technology is being piloted by the College of Engineering.