



MINUTES  
Distributed Learning Council (DLC)  
Friday February 17, 2012

Members Present: Mary Fehr, Karissa Greathouse, Melanie Ilmt, Glenn Jill, James Hoffman, Justin Louder, Pat McConnel, Melinda Mitchell-Jones, Carla Myers, Sam Oswald, Valerie Paton, Nicci Price, Rick Rolle, Krista St. Clair, Robert Stuhlfeld, Kimberly Vardeman, and Kent Wilkinson

Members Excused: Hansell Jurley, James Bush, Don Collier, Cliff Fedler, Sarah Foley, Robert Gonzalez, John Kobza, Julie Martenson, Amy Murphy, Jean Scott, Vickie Sutton, Marcus Tanner, Susan Tomlinson, and Vicki West

Guests Present: Allen Young on behalf of Kathy Altman, Ashley Walpole on behalf of DoMa Hamilton, Tom Dolan, Brent Guitman, and David Johnson

The meeting was called to order at 12:30 p.m. by Valerie Paton. Paton welcomed the IJLC member.

Action Items

1. Approval of December 9, 2011 Minutes - Valerie Paton (Attachment #1)  
Motion was made by Hoffman and seconded by Wilkinson to approve the 12/9/11 minutes as distributed. Motion passed.

Discussion and Information Item

2. Transition of institution support for hybrid and fully distance learning - Valerie Paton (Attachment #2)  
Paton shared that in December 2011 the Provost Office convened to consider the future of University College. It was determined that the institution could provide better support to students by moving away from the college structure. Therefore, University College will transition as follows:
  - Learning Policy, Planning, and Promotion will provide institution-wide support for distributed learning. (See attached handout).
  - The Bachelor of General Studies (BGS) will transition to the College of Arts & Sciences.
  - The Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Science in University Studies (BA/RSUS), as well as Integrative Studies and Human Resource Development courses will move to Undergraduate Education under the supervision of Dr. Patrick Hughes, Associate Vice Provost effective February 1, 2012.
  - The Bachelor of Science in Wind Energy (BSWE) should have a transition plan by Fall 2012 and the IJLC will be provided with an update soon.
  - An integrative marketing plan will be determined by Chris Cook in Marketing and Communications. However, due to the unique needs of marketing distributed learning

courses & marketing plan will also be developed by Louder (eLearning) to meet specific needs.

- TTUUSD transitioned to report to the Office of the Provost on February 1, 2012 under the direction of Sam Oswald, Executive Director.

Paton thanked Mike Wilson for his expertise in handling the budgetary facets of the transition.

3. LTAC Technology Advisory Committee (LTAC) Update - Matt Baker  
Baker and Louder attended a meeting of the Learning Technology Advisory Committee (LTAC) at the THECR in Austin on February 3, 2012. One of the items discussed was Rider 57, also known as the Distance Education Cost Efficiency Study. This Rider requires universities to assess their three most popular degree programs and estimate how much it would cost to deliver the degrees online. In a meeting on February 14th, Matt Baker, Justin Louder, Valerie Paton, Martha Brown and Kyle Clark discussed the university's LMS system's response to proposed implementation language. On February 20th, Baker sent the following suggested language to Van Davis of the THECB and indicated that Rial Rolfe of the TTUHSC may send additional language as well.

#### Texas Tech's Input into Rider 57 - Distance Education Cost Efficiency Study Metrics February 20, 2012

*Texas Tech University recommends that the LTAC -proposed NICUBO cost categories for Instruction, Academic Support, Institutional Support, Operations and Maintenance of Plant, and Student Services be utilized as cost factors when estimating the institution's choices of popular-online program development. It is our recommendation that institutions be given latitude to develop and report the metrics used to determine mid cost factors for academic program delivery.*

*In terms of effectiveness indicators, we recommend the following commonly-used program-level outcomes: graduation rate, post-graduation employment, acceptance into graduate or post-hoc programs and flexibility for the institutions to add program-specific outcomes as determined by program faculty (for example, faculty may choose to include discipline- or accreditation-metrics of effectiveness).*

*Per efficiency, cost comparison outcomes using effectiveness indicators should be based upon available state- and or national- peer program metrics.*

Baker also reported that the LTAC subcommittee on doctoral education had the following degree programs under review: (1) a proposed Doctor of Nursing Practice degree from UNT for hybrid delivery, and (2) a proposed Ed.D. in Curriculum and Instruction from UNT-Houston for ITV delivery in the Houston and San Antonio areas. All Ed.D. in Educational Leadership from UH Clear Lake was approved by LTAC at the Austin meeting on February 4.

Baker concluded his report by updating the LTAC members with his involvement on a LTAC affordability working group and a presentation by Mark Milleron, the newly announced President of Western Governor's University- Texas (WGU-Texas). In terms of the affordability working group, their goal is to have recommendations to THECB by mid-summer. They are considering all options as recommendations for lowering college cost, including the use of textbooks and expansion of the community college's role in

baccalaureate-level delivery. Millcron provided an overview of WGU-Texas and its concept of granting college credit by competency assessment. WGU-Texas is a private nonprofit university which is accredited through the Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities (not SACS-COC).

4. Update on State Authorization and related LTAC issues-Justin Louder  
Louder shared that as of February 3, 2012 the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board is pursuing reciprocal agreements with other states which would eliminate the need for Texas Tech University to pursue individual state approvals with regard to state authorization.

*Update from WGU: On February 28, 2012 the U.S. House of Representatives overwhelmingly voted to repeal the U.S. Department of Education's regulations on defining the credit hour and requiring state authorization. Go to the below link to see a new blog post providing updates on reciprocal agreement among states:*

<http://wcelblog.wordpress.com/2012/02/29/house-state-authorization-vote/>

5. Higher Education Regional Council (HERC) -Justin Louder (1/24/12)  
Louder shared that Texas public institutions of higher education are required to file an annual off-campus lower-division course delivery plan with the HERC. Texas Tech is a member of Region I and will provide notification in April. Toulter asked the DJC members to kindly review the attached IERC document and provide any updates by February 29, 2012. Member institutions for Region I are as follows:

Amarillo College, Amarillo, TX  
Clarendon College, Clarendon, TX  
Frank Phillips College, Borger, TX  
Lubbock Christian College, Lubbock, TX  
South Plains College, Levelland, TX  
Texas Tech University, Lubbock, TX  
Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center, Lubbock, TX  
Wayland Baptist University, Plainview, TX  
West Texas A&M University, Canyon, TX

Paton shared that the Higher Educational Regional Councils in each of the ten Uniform State Service Regions (established under Texas Education Code, §51.662) advise the Commissioner and resolve disputes regarding plans for lower-division courses and programs proposed by public institutions. Each HERC shall make recommendations to the Commissioner regarding off-campus courses and programs proposed for delivery in accordance with the consensus views of Council members.

Texas public institutions of higher education are required to file an annual off-campus lower-division course delivery plan with the IERC of which the institution is a member.

There being no further business to come before the ULC, the meeting was adjourned at 2:00p.m.