



TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY
Office of the Provost

Office of Online Compliance & Regulation™

MINUTE

Distributed Learning Council (DLC)
Friday, September 20, 2013

Members Present: Clifford Fedler, Robin Lock, Nancy Slagle, Karissa Greathouse, Catherine Parsonault, Gary Elbow, Pat McConnel, Kent Wilkinson, Suzanne Tapp, Rial Rolfe, Peggy Miller, Jean Scott, Justin Louder, Julie Martenson, Lewis Snell.

Members Excused: Matt Baker, Cathy Duran, Glenn Hill, James Hoffman, Patrick Hughes, Vickie Sutton, Kimberly Vardeman, Kathy Austin, Robert Gonzalez, Kate St. Clair, Robert Stubblefield, Fernando Vale, and Vicki West.

Guests Present: Stephanie Borst on behalf of Melanie Hart, Tom Dolan, David Johnson, and Dianne T. Reyes.

I. Welcome

The meeting was called to order at 12:37 p.m. by Justin Louder. Dr. Louder welcomed the DLC members and asked that each one state their name and group they represented

II. Action Items

Review minutes from last DLC meeting-Justin Louder (attachment #1))

Dr. Louder announced that minutes attached were actually not the most current, a spring 2013 meeting was held, but do it being a transition period when Linda McNeill left, the minutes have not been located. As soon as minutes are located they will be emailed out. No action was taken on this matter.

III. Updates

a. State Authorization Update – Tom Dolan (Attachment #2)

Tom Dolan reported on the Updated Authorization Map and he also defined and cautioned the committee on the definition of 100% online activity. He stated that 100% Online is a student with a computer and all electronic communication and if anyone is doing anything other than communicating electronically with another student in another state, Dr. Louder would need to know. In some states, more than that could trigger/prompt a more than 100% electronic communication and then we have to seek 100% authorization.

Dr. Louder quickly summarized we were at: 39 authorized states, 3 pending states, and had 9 more difficult states left to apply to. Some of these states require degree outcomes, faculty credentialing, significant fees associated with authorization, and yearly fees. He stated we would be reviewing where are students currently reside so that we will know which state to tackle next. He also stated that the reason that the map is mostly colored in red is

because we are now approved by SREB (Southern Regional Education Board) authorizing TTU to offer online and correspondence courses in those states. Once we are listed on the electronic campus we are covered under the reciprocal agreement in the southern states. SREB right now is the only regional education group that has done a reciprocal agreement like this, so this helps use in all the SREB states except for Alabama, Florida, and Maryland. But, we have already obtained separate authorization for Florida and Maryland, and Alabama has not signed off on the SREB reciprocal agreement. The Great Plains Idea cooperative does not have a reciprocal agreement in those states so we have go individually to those states. Also, the national SARA Agreement (State Authorization Reciprocal Agreement) is slowly moving forward and not all 50 states have agreed to be apart of the agreement. What it looks like will happen is that you will have to be a member of one of regional boards; i.e. Southern or Western Interstate Commerce Group and as long as you are a member of one of those and you meet their requirements, it will cover you nationwide once the SARA agreement gets fully approved. With the exception of the states that don't join the regional compact groups. If there is any kind of major changes to any online programs please let the office know, especially if there is any kind of face to face components in any of these states. The map is updated regularly and we have not gotten to the point that we are turning students away for states that we do not have authorization yet.

Julie Martenson asked about regional site notification, how and when it is done. The Office of Online Compliance and Regulation takes care of notification, each semester.

b. SACS-COCO Accreditation

There is a specific SACS committee that is looking a distance education and standards that impact it. Also, other committees are also looking at distance education in terms of regional sites. Dr. Parsonault stated all extended sites function under all the same requirements and need to know and demonstrate compliance with all the standards just like any other part of the university.

c. Updates from Regional Sites –

Waco TTU-Lewis Snell did not have any updates to report.

Fredericksburg/Highland Lake TTU-Julie Martenson reported that they had opened up a distance section and is reaching students that otherwise would not be reached at all. All sections with the exception of a lab based chemistry class are taught back and forth between Fredericksburg and Highland Lakes via IT means.

d. Updates from the Group

Dr. Louder asked the group for updates from their colleges on what they are working on regarding: distance, concerns, comments, questions, and issues. Robin Lock, College of Education- One of the things the college is working on, in the graduate program for distance education is how to take the newly reformed programs which now included a performance based assessment for three different time periods throughout the students, Masters and Doctoral Career and how to assess those and keep students abreast via distance. By

using video technology and conferencing opportunities that involve different methodology and how we can develop data bases that allow both for the student to upload the information, as well as the student and faculty to go back and look at what they have done and provide remediation for them if they are not able to pass the three critical performances based assessments. Implementation started this fall for at least one graduate program in each of the program areas in both departments.

Dr. Louder addressed Massive Open Online Courses (MOOC) which have started popping up around the campus. He stated that there are issues with them as they are not a part of the university, just individuals choosing to take the class. At this point there is no university policy regarding MOOC.

Dr. Miller stated that faculty member here cannot choose to not to charge tuition as we are a state institution and not a decision that as individuals we can make.

Robin Lock reminded the group that ADA issues might come up and have to be addressed and provided.

Dr. Louder stated that if someone knew that their department or college wanted to develop a MOOC, please have them speak with Dr. Miller or himself and they would try to work with them due to issues like ADA, offering courses without tuition, things like that.

IV. Provost's Special Committee and Distance Learning-Louder

When Dr. Nellis came he asked the Provost to convene a special committee on Distant Education here at Texas Tech. The Provost and Dr. Stewart have been leading this group throughout the summer with a goal to have a white paper to the president relatively soon.

Dr. Miller added that an Academic Policy Council made up of faculty and policy people has already come together to look at big issues that are coming down the pike that would need much discussion before any recommendations. There are various sub-committees that represent all the colleges who have written reports that will be combined, to reflect the committee. The report will be submitted to the provost, who after review will submit to president who will then submit to the board.

Dr. Louder mentioned to committee members that emails had been sent out regarding certifications and asked that council members make sure their faculty did certify. If any did not certify, he would be making contact with their department Chair or Associate Dean. The certification is used to prove during SACS Accreditation and any time the Coordinating Board asks that courses do meet Principles of Good Practice for Online Learning, so the data is used as evidence and back up.

V. Open Discussion

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