

Minutes - eLearning Council Meeting

Thursday April 19, 2018 | 1:30 PM -3:00 PM

Office of the Provost Conference Room, Admin 104

Attendees: Justin Louder, Kathy Austin, Pat McConnel, David Doerfert, Rachel Mendez, Otto Ratheal, Ron Nail, Karissa Greathouse, Kristi Gilmore, Ian Barba, Andrea McCourt, Gail Alleyne-Bayne, Joshua Fairbanks, Lewis Snell, Suzanne Tapp, Heather Greenhalgh-Spencer, Jennifer Hughes, John R. Thomas, Lisa Leach, Kelly Fox, Vickie Sutton

- I. **Call to Order:** Meeting was called to order at 1:31 p.m. by Dr. Justin Louder.
- II. **Approval of Minutes from Previous Meeting:** Dr. Heather Greenhalgh-Spencer made a motion to approve and Dr. Andrea McCourt seconded. Minutes from the previous eLearning Council meeting, held on 3/122/18, are approved as edited by Dr. Kathy Austin.
- III. **New Distance Program:**
 - a. **Bachelor of Applied Arts & Sciences (BAAS) in Early Childhood:** Dr. Stephanie Shine and Ms. Mitzi Ziegner spoke on the Bachelor of Applied Arts & Sciences (BAAS) in Early Childhood. Ms. Suzanne Tapp made a motion approve and Dr. Austin seconded. The proposal will be voted on in the next Academic Council Meeting.
- IV. **Red Raider Research Registry:** Dr. Austin spoke on the Red Raider Research Registry. During the process of evaluating data necessary to support the scholarship of teaching and research, a team of people have created a data registry. Student data information, such as demographic data, curricular-based data, program related data, and financial aid data information will be included in the registry. Data from the last 10 years will be imported into this Red Raider Research Registry for research purposes. The students will be permanently de-identified, and restrictions put in on queries that yield a sample size small enough to infer identity.
- V. **Blackboard Community:** Dr. Austin spoke on Blackboard Community. This is a program that will allow information to be provided to students to create a sense of community among groups. Blackboard Community is expected to be ready by the upcoming Fall Semester. Conducting a pilot for this program will be discussed during the next eLearning Council Meeting.
- VI. **Blackboard Ally & Online Accessibility:** Dr. Austin, Dr. Lisa Leach, and Dr. Louder spoke on Blackboard Ally & Online Accessibility. Blackboard Ally is an accessibility product that will check files in Blackboard for accessible content, flag files that are not accessible, make files accessible Word PDF's and make content accessible automatically. Technical review and updates are still being conducted for this product. A pilot will be conducted with smaller groups first. If successful, the pilot may be rolled out to the entire Learn production environment afterwards.
- VII. **TA Permissions & Blackboard Roles:** Dr. Austin discussed TA Permissions & Blackboard Roles. The ability for faculty to add teacher assistants to their Blackboard courses was

initially temporarily removed due to compliance concerns. However, during the time that the technical problem was remedied, the institution became aware of some compliance issues with regard to instruction from a SACS perspective. Dr. Darryl James, the TTU SACS liaison will now be handling this matter under the topic of “accreditation requirements for graduate and undergraduate instructors of record”. The University is continuously working on a suitable long-term, automated solution for this issue.

- VIII. *Continuing Education-Elevate:*** Dr. Austin discussed Continuing Education-Elevate. Elevate is used for non-academic courses and professional development settings. The solution provides an environment for registration, information, payment, and completion for non-academic workshops, sessions, and courses. If you or anyone in your department would be interested in piloting this software, please contact Dr. Austin.
- IX. *SafeAssign:*** Dr. Gail Alleyne-Bayne and Dr. Louder spoke on the SafeAssign product. Currently the institution has Turnitin plagiarism detection software that is paid for by the Library. The contract was extended through March of 2019. In the meantime, the University would like to transition faculty in to using SafeAssign.
- X. *Regional Site Updates:*** Dr. Lewis Snell discussed updates for the Waco Campus. The Waco site is now looking forward to celebrating two graduation ceremonies, one in Cleburne and one in Waco this upcoming May. The site was able to claim 754 semester credit hours over the course of the semester. Dr. Stephanie Lockwood, from the Waco campus, is preparing for a trip to Honduras. Dr. Kelly Fox discussed updates for Fredericksburg. The site will be celebrating twenty-four graduates during a graduation reception in Fredericksburg this upcoming May. Dr. Michael Orth, the chairman of Animal and Food Sciences, visited the site to become familiar with the new local food & wine program in Fredericksburg. Dr. Fox spoke with members of the RHIM department to discuss implementing a course rotation for RHIM beginning in the fall semester in Fredericksburg. The site is also continuing to look for academic partners who are looking to extend their program in the Fredericksburg area. Dr. Louder spoke on an update for the Collin site. Ms. Jameshia Granberry is looking to utilize the campus space at some of the different Collin Community Colleges and trying to grow the program there. Dr. Louder will return to the Collin site in May for the Higher Ed Regional Council Meeting. The eLearning & Academic Partnerships Marketing Team visited the Junction Center for a staff retreat and to find out how they can better market the campus. Dr. David Doerfert announced the Grad Council meeting will only meet once this summer. Dr. Louder will be out for the May eLearning Council Meeting. Mr. Otto Ratheal will chair the May eLearning Council Meeting. The last eLearning Council Meeting will be held on May 17, 2018 and will resume again in the fall of 2018.
- XI. *Adjourn:*** Meeting adjourned at 2:25 p.m.