

Minutes - eLearning Council Meeting

Thursday May 17, 2018 | 1:30 PM -3:00 PM

Office of the Provost Conference Room, Admin 104

Attendees: Kathy Austin, David Doerfert, Otto Ratheal, Ron Nail, Karissa Greathouse, Kristi Gilmore, Ian Barba, Andrea McCourt, Gail Alleyne-Bayne, Lewis Snell, Heather Greenhalgh-Spencer, Jennifer Hughes, John R. Thomas, Lisa Leach, Kelly Fox, Larry Phillipe, Jameshia Granberry, Rebecca Larsen, Leslie DeBusk, Roger Landes, Melanie Hart

- I. **Call to Order:** Meeting was called to order at 1:34 p.m. by Mr. Otto Ratheal.
- II. **Approval of Minutes from Previous Meeting:** Dr. Kathy Austin made a motion to approve and Dr. Heather Greenhalgh-Spencer seconded. Minutes from the previous eLearning Council meeting, held on 4/19/18, are approved.
- III. **New Distance Program:**
 - a. **Minor in Kinesiology (Waco):** Dr. Lewis Snell spoke on the Minor in Kinesiology (Waco). Dr. Greenhalgh-Spencer made a motion approve and Dr. Andrea McCourt seconded. The proposal will be voted on in the next Academic Council Meeting.
 - b. **Communication for Center Directors at Institutions of Higher Education (Graduate Certificate):** Dr. Austin made a motion to table this item until a representative is able attend and speak on the proposed program. Dr. Greenhalgh-Spencer seconded the motion. The item will be discussed at the next eLearning Council Meeting.
- IV. **Blackboard Community:** Dr. Austin indicated that 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.
- V. **Blackboard Analytics Demo:** Mr. John Thomas and Dr. Austin spoke on the Blackboard Analytics Demo. Rosemary Bratsch, a Blackboard representative, presented a demo on Blackboard Analytics to the committee. Several committee members raised concerns, and the group agreed that more review and input is needed. Dr. Hart advised that the course-level assessment pieces would likely be very useful, but concurred that we need further input on some of the institutional settings in the software.
- VI. **Blackboard Ally & Online Accessibility:** Dr. Austin and Mr. Thomas updated the group on Blackboard Ally & Online Accessibility. Blackboard Ally is an accessibility product that will check files in Blackboard for accessibility, flagging 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. If you are interested in piloting this software, please contact Dr. Gail Alleyne-Bayne. Online piloting was conducted with Watson for Online Accessibility.

- VII. *Overview of Strategic Additions to the Blackboard Environment:*** Mr. Thomas presented new projects that IT has been working on within Blackboard. Dr. Alleyne-Bayne has been working with the Office of Planning and Assessment to pilot and fully implement Blackboard ePortfolio. There will be an upgrade on the Blackboard Learn Production Environment on the 1st of June.
- VIII. *Distance Learning-Executive Dashboard Discussion and Feedback:*** Dr. Austin spoke on the Distance Learning-Executive Dashboard Discussion and Feedback. Dr. Austin is conducting an Executive Dashboard for the President and Cabinet, looking at various data that the President and Provost would like to see. Dr. Austin proposed that the council create a dashboard metrics that they would define and develop an area in specialized dashboards. Group will discuss further, in terms of specific metrics to include.
- IX. *Visit to Blackboard Help Desk Center in Killeen:*** Dr. Austin and Mr. Thomas discussed an upcoming visit to Blackboard Help Desk Center in Killeen. The Blackboard Help Desk Center provides student services for distance students. Texas Tech University was invited to visit the call center.
- X. *Summer Meeting Discussion:*** Mr. Ratheal spoke on the Summer Meeting Discussion. eLearning Council will not meet during the summer. eLearning Council will reconvene September 20, 2018.
- XI. *Regional Site Updates:***
- Dr. Lewis Snell discussed updates for the Regional Site at Waco. The Waco site celebrated two graduation receptions, one in Cleburne for the first time and one in Waco. The Regional Site is working on recruiting events that they have setup with the Community College.
 - Ms. Jameshia Granberry spoke on an update for the Collin site. They are getting ready to host their first graduation reception. They have 6 students graduating from TTU at Collin. They are also working on recruiting for the summer. Ms. Granberry asked that if anyone has any programs or minors that they offer at the Collin Regional Site, to please send recruitment information to her. They will be visiting Tarrant County, Dallas, Collin, and North Central Texas College to set up Tech Transfer areas on the campuses to bring Texas Tech to their area.
 - Dr. Kelly Fox discussed updates for Fredericksburg and Highland Lakes Regional Sites. The sites celebrated a graduation reception held on May 4, 2018 for 22 students. At graduation they awarded approximately \$47,000 in local scholarships. Fredericksburg's Forging Futures Classic Golf Tournament raised about \$135,000. Most of the money raised will support various Texas Tech organizations like, TTU at Fredericksburg, OLLI, Hill Country and the Alumni Association. If you have any flyers for online programs that Fredericksburg and Hill College are allowed to offer please send them to Dr. Fox.
 - Dr. Melanie Hart traveled to Austin in support of the TTU Center at Junction, who received an award for their engagement in ecology and watershed.

- Dr. Clay Taylor and Dr. Hart recently visited with San Antonio's Alamo College. Alamo College has developed a consortium with Austin Community Colleges and several 4 year institutions in the Austin and San Antonio area. Texas Tech University was the only University outside of that area to be invited. The colleges are creating pathways for their students.
- Dr. Taylor may be contacting some of you all soon to work on pathways for online degrees, degrees at regional sites or having students come to Lubbock. Texas Tech will be having a signing with Rockwall ISD to offer courses and programs at their new College and Career Academy. The brand new building is scheduled to open in September of 2018. This will be the University's new Collin Regional Site focus. If you are interested in offering any programs in the Rockwall area please let Dr. Hart know.

XII. Adjourn: Meeting adjourned at 2:57 p.m.