Minutes - eLearning Council Meeting

Thursday, February 28, 2019 | 1:30 PM-3:00 PM

Office of the Provost Conference Room, Admin 104

Attendees: Justin Louder, Melanie Hart, Pat McConnel, Kathy Austin, Karissa Greathouse, Lewis Snell, Lisa Leach, Kurt Caswell, Vickie Hampton for Sandra Huston, Roger Landes, David Doerfert, Vickie Sutton, Andrea McCourt, Kelly Fox, Otto Ratheal, John R. Thomas, Ian Barba, Heather Greenhalgh-Spencer, Coy Callison for Kristi Gilmore, Degeng Wang, Suzanne Tapp

I.   *Call to Order:* Meeting was called to order at 1:34 p.m. by Dr. Justin Louder.

II.   *Approval of Minutes from Previous Meeting***:** Dr. Heather Greenhalgh-Spencer made a motion to approve and Dr. Kathy Austin seconded. Minutes from the previous eLearning Council meeting, held on 1/24/19, were approved.

III.   *New Distance Program Approvals:*

    a.   *Multidisciplinary Studies Proposals:* Dr. Doug Hamman spoke on the three proposed multidisciplinary studies proposals. Dr. David Doerfert made a motion to approve and Dr. Greenhalgh-Spencer seconded. The proposal will be voted on in the next Academic Council Meeting.

    b.   *Graduate Certificate in Charitable Financial Planning:* Dr. Vickie Hampton spoke on the proposed Graduate Certificate in Charitable Financial Planning. This proposal was determined to be a non-substantive change by the Council. No vote was made.

    c.   *Minor in Nutritional Sciences***:** Ms. Lydia Kloiber spoke on the proposed Minor in Nutritional Sciences. Dr. Doerfert made a motion to approve and Dr. Austin seconded. The proposal will be voted on in the next Graduate Council Meeting.

    d.   *Sports Nutrition Minor:* Ms. Kloiber spoke on the proposed Sports Nutrition Minor, including three new concentrations. Ms. Suzanne Tapp made a motion to approve and Dr. Andrea McCourt seconded. The proposal will be voted on in the next Graduate Council Meeting.

IV.   *Online Writing Center:* Dr. Kathy Gillis spoke about the Online Writing Center. Dr. Gillis informed the council of resources the Online Writing Center had to offer. The Online Writing Center would like to expand services for Worldwide eLearning and Texas Tech distance students. The Online Writing Center is planning to visit our regional sites so they may work with the directors, advisors and students to determine the needs of each site. Tutorials are offered as asynchronous online and synchronous tutorials are offered with the graduate center. The Online Writing Center also hopes to expand services to faculty and staff at other campuses in the future.

V.   *Accessibility Strategic Plan:* Dr. Lisa Leach discussed the Accessibility Strategic Plan. This item has already been approved by the eLearning Council and will be routed to the Associate Dean's Office.

VI. **_Common Course Template:_** Dr. Leach and Dr. Louder discussed the Common Course Template. This template has been reformatted and will be the default for summer courses. The menu bar provided follows accessibility guidelines as well. Instructions are provided online if you would like to modify the template, this was just developed to create a common look. A drafted announcement will go out to faculty after Spring Break.

VII. **_Ally Rollout:_** Dr. Louder and Dr. Leach discussed the Ally rollout. This will appear university-wide after Spring Break. An e-blast and postcard will be distributed next week, information will also be provided in the E-Newsletter. A new Accessibility webpage has been created so that you may access resources and tutorials in creating accessible materials.

VIII. **_Blackboard Updates: Community, Content, Analytics, etc.:_** Mr. John R. Thomas and Dr. Austin discussed updates for Blackboard Community, analytics and content. A structure of hierarchy for the institutional-level, the college-level and the department-level was created. These will represent all of the departments that are at degree range for now with the intent to come up with a solution to also represent the non-degree departments. Once this is built into Blackboard Community people can reach out to everyone within that community for academic support. The institution would like to use analytics as a platform to individual staff and departmental course development. There are some technical issues within the production environment but IT is currently working on a solution.

IX. **_Open Discussion:_** There were no items discussed.

X. **_Adjourn:_** Meeting adjourned at 2:43 p.m.