

Distributed Learning Council (DLC)
University College, Room 103A
April 19, 2010

Minutes

Members Present: Dennis Fehr, Ariel Fernandez, Sarah Foley, Karissa Greathouse, Fred Hartmeister, Sherry Herzog, James Hoffman, Patrick Hughes, John Kobza, Hossein Mansouri, Michele Moskos, Amy Murphy, Rosslyn Smith, Kimberly Vardman

Members Excused: Mary Fehr, Bob Hickerson, Glenn Hill, Debra Laverie, Melinda Mitchell, Carla Myers, Valerie Paton, Jean Scott, Patricia Watson, Kent Wilkinson

Guests: Darrell Bateman, Brian Mittel - Sonic Foundry, Cary Sallee, Allen Young

Matt Baker welcomed everyone to the DLC meeting, and all the members introduced themselves. He then went on to report the following: 1) College leadership met in Junction to discuss the new strategic plan. Discussion focused on the demand for off-campus sites in various communities, especially in the Austin and Dallas areas. He will, however, recommend to the Provost we continue to work with our current off-site campuses, and look at opportunities next year for the baccalaureate program (BGS) in Abilene. The group also discussed the Dallas metroplex in terms of a TTU presence. 2) Introduced Cary Sallee as University College's new Interim Director of Outreach and as well as being Director of Student Services. 3) Announced Birgit Green is new Director of Grants Management at University College. 4) TLTC Changes: Debra Laverie has accepted the Sr. Associate Dean position at the Rawls College of Business effective May 1st and is stepping down as Director, of the TLTC. University College will work with TLTC since a number of TLTC staff are housed in our building. 5) A decision to phase out the Second Life technology (virtual high school environment) was made due to budgetary concerns.

1. Information Items

- a. PassFaces Technology (Guest: Darrell Bateman – IT) – Matt Baker introduced Darrell Bateman, IT, who made a presentation regarding this new technology for student authentication. He explained that the Federal Government is interested in making sure that students actually exist. Darrell Bateman went on to explain that this technology is a unique authentication system. Users are presented with a series of photographs in which they have to identify the one that has been assigned to them.
- b. Changed in Federal Distance Ed Policies (*handout*) – (Matt Baker/Karissa Greathouse) – Matt Baker reported that Mary Fehr (TLTC) participated in this seminar on the changes in the federal distance education requirements. Rosslyn Smith was asked to provide information on what other colleges are doing on this issue for the next DLC meeting. He would also like the Council to work on policy language to share with the Academic Council since the Provost has asked the DLC to articulate a university policy on this issue.
- c. Presentation/Demonstration of Media Site (Kathy Austin/Allen Young; Guest Speaker: Brian Mittel, Sonic Foundry) – Brian Mittel of Sonic Foundry gave a brief demonstration of Media Site, which will be installed in every classroom in the new Rawls College of Business building (don't know if it is installed in the current building or not). Brian will be on campus for several days involved in focus groups. Allen Young's area will have advanced training to support the campus with this technology. Used primarily for academic purposes for making the classroom live or on-demand, but it can also create catalogues for research, leadership meetings, BOR meetings to stream out (live), campus tours, athletic events, etc. Council members were asked to contact Allen Young in IT if they were interested in receiving more information.

- d. Distance Education Advisory Committee Update (Rosslyn Smith) – Rosslyn Smith reported: 1) She and Patrick Hughes attended the April 14 meeting in Austin. 2) Coming this fall, the THECB website will link to various new, online professional development modules; this is a free service for teachers of all subjects from high school to university level, provided by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board. She will scan and send it out to all the Council members. 3) Discussed the 1996 State of Texas master plan for distance education. DEAC began to put together some committees that are going to rework a paper on critical issues in distance education in the State of Texas. A draft of this paper should be available by October 2010 to share with the legislators as they prepare for the 2011 legislative session.
- e. Reports from Committees
 - i. Quality Assurance – no report
 - ii. Faculty Development – no report
 - iii. Academic Programs and Courses (Patrick Hughes) – Patrick Hughes reported: 1) Preregistration is coming to a close. 2) Rolling out graduate certificate in wind energy in Abilene.
 - 1. Marketing (Michele Moskos) – Michele Moskos reported that on May 5th, the USDLA conference in St. Louis will be shown (via live feed) at University College, Conference Room 103B. She encouraged participation.
 - iv. Research and Scholarship (Kathy Austin) – Kathy Austin asked Council members if they would like to participate in this committee. If interested please send her an email.

2. Discussion Items

- a. The Future of Distance Education and Instructional Technology at Texas Tech University (Matt Baker) (*handout originally submitted to CLC on 2/15/10 by Glenn Hill, Kathy Austin, Brent Guinn and John Kobza*) – Matt Baker reported that this topic was shared with the Council at the last meeting, but Glenn Hill requested that this be revised. He stated that there are some questions that need to be addressed with the administration before going forward. College plans are being reviewed and will be rewritten through the summer. Kathy Austin stated that Glenn Hill's biggest concern is that he simply wants to know what the administration wants to achieve. Matt Baker distributed a handout concerning enrollment growth at the university, which was subsequently discussed. All agreed that the Provost should speak with the Council regarding this issue.

3. Action Items

- a. Approval of Minutes of February 15, 2010 – Fred Hartmeister moved to accept the minutes and Jim Hoffman seconded. The minutes were accepted as written.

- 4. **Adjournment** – The meeting adjourned at 1:10 pm. The next Distributed Learning Council meeting will be May 17, 2010.