



TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY
eLearning

MINUTES
Distributed Learning Council (DLC)
Friday, March 23, 2012

Members Present: Matt Baker, Hansel Burley, Cliff Fedler, Mary Fehr, Karissa Greathouse, Melanie Hart, Justin Louder, Pat McConnel, Sam Oswald, Nicci Price, Jean Scott, Kate St. Clair, Robert Stubblefield, and Vicki West

Members Excused: Kathy Austin, James Bush, Don Collier, Sarah Foley, Robert Gonzalez, Donna Hamilton, Glenn Hill, James Hoffman, Melinda Mitchell-Jones, Carla Myers, Valerie Paton, Vickie Sutton, Marcus Tanner, Susan Tomlinson, Kimberly Vardeman, and Kent Wilkinson

Guests Present:

Tom Dolan, Amy Fernandez on behalf of Julie Martenson, Irene Williams on behalf of Rial Rolfe, Brent Guinn on behalf of John Kobza, Nicci Price on behalf of Patrick Hughes and Amy Murphy

The meeting was called to order at 12:30 p.m. by Justin Louder. Louder welcomed the DLC members to the meeting and asked them to introduce themselves.

Action Items

1. Approval of February 17, 2012 Minutes – Justin Louder (Attachment #1)

Motion was made by Baker and seconded by Fehr to approve the 2/17/12 minutes as distributed. Motion passed.

Discussion and Information Items

2. TLPDC programs – Mary Fehr

Fehr shared that the following events are available through the TLPDC and will be of interest to the DLC members:

- "Quality Matters training: Improving Your Online Courses" will be held on April 13, 2012 from 8:00 a.m. – noon. This workshop, provided by a certified QM trainer will explore the QM Rubric and provide a framework to improve the quality of online courses.
- "Mobile Learning Ideas and Options" will be held on April 24, 2012 from 3:00 – 4:00 p.m. This workshop, held by Dr. Jongpil Cheon will focus on the current landscape of mobile teaching and learning. Dr. Cheon will discuss devices, apps, and instructional strategies for m-Learning.
- "Online Assessment Strategies" will be held on April 26, 2012 from 3:00-4:00 p.m. This workshop conducted by Mary Fehr and Veronica Valenzuela will assist you in developing a repertoire of strategies that provide accurate assessment and discourage cheating among students.

For more information about available programs at the TLPDC contact Fehr at marv.fehr@ttu.edu or to register for an event go to www.tlpd.ttu.edu and click on the [Register for an Event] tab.

3. ADA accommodations/available resources for online classes-Mary Fehr and Kathy Austin
Louder shared that this agenda item will be moved to the April 20¹_h DLC agenda. Louder informed the members that Dr. Rob Stewart, Senior Vice Provost is working with the ADA Online Accessibility Compliance Task Force which consists of Sam Segran, Juan Mufioz, Kathy Austin, Patrick Hughes, Cathy Duran, Suzanne Tapp, Mary Fehr, Larry Philippe, and Jeff Barrington to address ADA issues at TIU. Louder noted that ADA compliance is a serious issue at TTU and thanked Austin and Fehr in advance for providing more information at the April meeting.
4. State Authorization-Justin Louder
Louder informed the DLC members that the House voted to repeal state authorization per *H.R. 2117 – Protecting Academic Freedom in Higher Education Act*. The bill, which was introduced by Representative Virginia Foxx, targets state authorization and definition of the credit hour regulations implemented by the U.S. Department of Education in October of 2010. The bill passed on a 303 – 114 vote. Louder shared that the bill will now proceed to the Senate noting that even if the senate passes the repeal, and it is signed by the President, that will not stop various states from requiring authorization from universities. Therefore, TTU will still have to comply with individual state requirements. Louder shared that the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board is continuing to pursue reciprocal agreements with other states and WCET is also duplicating this effort and hopes to have a draft available for public comment by the end of April. For more information regarding WCET's efforts on the issue of state authorization and reciprocal agreements visit their website at www.wcet.wiche.edu
5. New location for future DLC meetings – Justin Louder
Louder informed the members that future DLC meetings would be held at a location more central to campus. After some discussion, the DLC members decided to continue meeting on the 3rd Friday of each month from 12:30 – 2:00p.m. Louder shared that as soon as a meeting location with ITV capabilities is identified the DLC meeting request in MS Outlook will be updated. *Update: Effective 4/2012, the DLC meetings will be held in the Library at the TLPDC, Room 151*
6. Discussion of non-credit based online courses – Justin Louder
Louder shared that the question of whether or not distance CEU courses should come before the DLC for approval has arisen. After some discussion, it was determined that CEUs are beyond the scope of the DLC. Louder stated that as more distance CEU courses are developed in the future, he will simply provide notification to the DLC members so they are aware.
7. Open discussion with DLC members – Justin Louder
Louder opened the floor to the DLC members:
 - Scott provided an update on Great Plains IDEA program development as follows:
 - o The College of Human Sciences is participating in the development of an undergraduate early childhood on-line program with course content under discussion.

- Pending approval by the Great Plains IDEA, COHS will be accepting their first students in the fall into the online youth development program offered as a master's degree in HDFS with concentration in Youth Development.
- Baker shared that USDA Higher Education Challenge Grants are due on Friday, March 30, 2012. Multi-institutional projects can qualify for three year funding up to a total of \$600K. A number of CASNR faculty are co-authoring proposals for this round of funding, many of which have proposed distance components. For example, Baker is co-authoring a proposal with faculty from Texas A&M, Auburn, the University of Tennessee, and Tennessee State University for the development of APP's to incorporate into lessons related to water quality. On another matter, Baker reported that he is working with a group of faculty in the Midwest on developing quality standards for online Extension programs, similar to quality standards for online academic programs (e.g. Quality Matters or Chico State). He requested that if faculty locate quality standards for continuing education and/or non-formal (noncredit bearing) courses, to let him know about the standards.
- Fedler shared that the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board adopted rules in April 2010 (Chapter 4 Subchapter R § 4.285-4.293) establishing procedures for the annual review of the number of graduates produced by degree programs at institutions of higher education. Fedler noted that DLC members should be aware that low-producing programs are undergraduate programs that do not graduate more than 25 students in 5 years, master's programs that do not graduate more than 15 students in 5 years, and doctoral programs that do not graduate more than 10 students in 5 years. A possible increase of standards has been proposed and will be discussed at the Undergraduate Education Advisory Committee (UEAC) at THECB on Friday, March 30th.
- Stubblefield shared a report on the following events held at the TTU Center at Junction:
 - The Texas Forest Service completed a 40 hour training certification course for Fire Service Instructor.
 - Graduate students working for Dr. Tim Graobowski collected data associated with the Guadalupe Bass Restoration Project over spring break.
 - TTU Outdoor Pursuits Wilderness First Responders spent spring break training for wilderness and back country rescue certification.
 - The Texas Water Symposium held at the center was made available on National Public Radio.
 - National Science Foundation Workshop was held to discuss future research and development opportunities. It is important to note that members of the panel belong to the Organization of Biological Field Stations.

There being no further business to come before the DLC, the meeting was adjourned at 1:00 p.m.