



TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY  
eLearning™

MINUTES

Distributed Learning Council (DLC)  
Friday, September 21, 2012

**Members Present:** Gary Elbow; Karissa Greathouse; Melanie Hart; John Kobza; Justin Louder; Pat McConnell; Jean Scott; Kate St. Clair; Suzanne Tapp; Kimberly Vardeman

**Members Excused:** Kathy Austin; Matt Baker; Hansel Burley; James Bush; Don Collier; Cathy Duran; Cliff Fedler; Mary Fehr; Robert Gonzalez; Donna Hamilton; Glenn Hill; James Hoffman; Michael Keller; Valerie Paton; Nicci Price; Robert Stubblefield; Vickie Sutton; Vicki West; Kent Wilkinson;

**Guests Present:** Kari Dickson on behalf of Rial Rolfe; Sarah Foley on behalf of Patrick Hughes; John Sauer on behalf of Julie Martenson; David Johnson; Tom Dolan; Deborah Banker;

The meeting was called to order at 12:45 p.m. by Justin Louder. Louder welcomed the DLC members to the meeting.

**Action Items**

1. **Approval of July 2012 Minutes – Justin Louder (Attachment #1)**  
Minutes approved and motion passed by the group

**Discussion and Information Items**

2. **State Authorization Update —Justin Louder, Tom Dolan**

Louder stated that the eLearning department is continuing their work on State Authorizations. Kari Dickson added that the Health Sciences Center has recently hired Ryan Henry, a full time staff member to deal primarily with State Authorizations. Louder said that the department is having success in working on states that are free to get authorized in but further in depth discussion is needed to address those states that are charging fees upward of \$10,000.00 for authorization and cited an example of Colorado State online spending over \$350,000.00 nationwide to get authorized. There are a couple of big national groups that are working on a nationwide agreement but nothing is expected in the immediate future, therefore Louder stated that we still have to make a good faith effort. Group discussion was invited to ask questions or make preliminary recommendations as to how these authorizations could be funded. Suggestions included charging fees to online students in certain states or not admitting students from certain states. Sarah Foley added that she feels that students will get used to the fact that these expenses will be passed on to them but also expressed concern about how this would affect the currently enrolled students as well as Military and Veteran students and exemption statuses in the different states. Tom Dolan added that Arkansas and Massachusetts are a couple of the states that are charging the most to get authorized in, further stating that these fees can be upwards of \$10,000.00 per online program. Dolan encouraged anyone interested for further or more specific information to please feel free to contact him at [tom.dolan@ttu.edu](mailto:tom.dolan@ttu.edu) or 834-0343.

Louder added that these decisions will probably have to be made within this academic term or at least this year. It was agreed that it would be a good idea for the eLearning department to come up with a database by college, of how many online students were in each state that it costs to get authorization in and what programs they were enrolled in to have an idea of what the actual costs would be.

Dolan stated that we are authorized in 22 of the easier states and reiterated the importance of not conducting any academic activity in state and triggering physical presence (study groups, recruiting, internships, practicum, etc.). Louder added that all states must be monitored for any changes that occur.

**Upcoming LTAC Conference at the THECB - Justin Louder**

Louder will be attending the conference for Matt Baker in October. The Doctoral program sub-committee is reviewing a proposal for a new Ph.D. in plant breeding at Texas A & M College Station as an online degree taught both in the US and internationally. LTAC is also continuing the work on a white paper to address legislative concerns on distance education programming particularly related to cost. Part of that has to do with competency based education which is getting more and more push nationwide for schools and programs to develop ways in which students can test out of certain classes not just by CLEP but general learning and work-based skills.

Group discussion was invited. DLC's newest participant, Dr. Deborah Banker from Angelo State University introduced herself. Banker added that Angelo State offers online Master's degree programs in Curriculum and Instruction, Nursing and Security Studies as well as some Bachelor's degree courses.

**Other**

There being no further business to come before the DLC, the meeting was adjourned at 1:15 p.m.