



TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY

eLearning™

## MINUTES

Distributed Learning Council (DLC)

Friday, March 22, 2013

**Members Present:** Matt Baker; Deborah Banker; Hansel Burley; Karissa Greathouse; Donna Hamilton; Michael Keller; Justin Louder; Julie Martenson; Pat McConnell; Jean Scott; Kate St. Clair; Suzanne Tapp; Kimberly Vardeman

**Members Excused:** Kathy Austin; James Bush; Don Collier; Cathy Duran; Gary Elbow; Cliff Fedler; Robert Gonzalez; Glen Hill; James Hoffman (emailed his responses); John Kobza; Vicki Sutton; Robert Stubblefield; Vicki West; Kent Wilkinson

**Guests Present:** Stephanie Borst on behalf of Melanie Hart; Kari Dickinson on behalf of Rial Rolfe; Sarah Foley on behalf of Patrick Hughes; Anne Arnecke; Matthew Bonnitt; Chris Corona; Tom Dolan; Julianne Franklin; David Johnson; Joann Klinker; Kimberly McCarron ; Peggy Miller

The meeting was called to order at 12:40 p.m. by Justin Louder. Louder welcomed the DLC members to the meeting.

### **Action Items**

1. **Approval of November 2012 Minutes – Justin Louder (Attachment #1)**

Quorum present – approved by acclimation of the group.

2. **Proposed PhD in Educational Leadership with the College of Education – Joann Klinker**

The proposal was sent to various members via email prior to the meeting. Joann gave an overview of the proposal to have a separate online PhD program (research based) from the EdD program (practice based) for Texas students. She also answered questions presented by Melanie Hart via email: 1) The dissertation component will be one-on-one (faculty to student ratio), but the faculty member may have more than one student (up to five students), 2) The qualifying exam has multiple options for how it will be administered, and 3) Orientation will take place on campus and include meeting faculty and other students as well as a tour over a Friday-Saturday period. Matt Baker moved for acceptance. Hansel Burley seconded. All accepted.

3. **Four Degrees offered in Waco – Donna Hamilton and Peggy Miller**

Donna explained Waco is looking to offer four degrees on their campus: BA in Communication Studies, BS in Biology, BS in Natural Resource Management, and BS in Sports Science. The degrees would require both face-to-face and online coursework. The faculty will be vetted through the home department. The group gave general consent to approve all four degree programs.

## **Discussion and Information Items**

### 4. Changes to DLC – Peggy Miller

Peggy explained that distance learning is looking to expand the distance programs to offer more degrees due to need. She mentioned Joseph Rallo, Academic Affairs Vice President for TTU, is looking to remove impediments for the department to be more efficient. Proposals to expand and streamline the process are awaiting the new president's approval. Projections for number of students wanting distance learning courses ranges up to 5,000.

### 5. Updates on Distance Learning Programs – Julie Martenson and Peggy Miller

Fredericksburg does not have a robust offering of courses, but they are looking to change that. Peggy Miller has been a great help in the matter. Fredericksburg has added three concentrations for the fall: Journalism, Criminal Justice, and Criminology. Additionally, they have also added a teaching vineyard for their campus. Lubbock has not been able to provide a similar service, because vineyard owners are hesitant to allow students to prune and work with their plants.

El Paso is in the process of moving to a new building.

Junction had an analysis by NSF, who strongly recommended an increase in faculty and staff to better facilitate graduate students. NSF also recommends Lubbock joint venture with Junction.

### 6. Updates on Items 2, 3, and 4 – Justin Louder

Item 2: TTU is authorized in 26 states. Six states in the Southern Regional Education Board are pending authorization. The Sloan Consortium, the University Professional and Continuing Education Association, and the WCET-WICHE Cooperative for Educational Technologies released a survey explaining fees being the main problem with schools not applying for state authorization with some states.

Item 3: The Distance Learning website is undergoing updates to better meet state authorization requirements as well as give more control to distance websites. Schools can still admit students from all states, but all programs that require face-to-face interaction must be reported. Out of state schools sending students to Tech for proctored exams must be authorized in Texas.

Item 4: Higher Educational Regional Council Notification (HURC) document was sent out to DLC members, showing all distance and face-to-face courses. The HURC document must be sent out to regional councils by April 1<sup>st</sup>. It only impacts face-to-face instruction, including hybrid instruction.

## **Other**

There being no further business to come before the DLC, the meeting was adjourned at 1:30 p.m.