

Committee on Distance Learning
2010-2011 Agenda Report

Date: October 28, 2010

To: Speaker of the Faculty

From: Dan Bochsler, Committee Chair

The Committee on Distance Learning is charged with analyzing, supporting, and providing planning advice and recommendations regarding distance learning academics, processes and applications. The Committee is to advise on strategy and policy regarding distance learning, as faculty are integrally involved in planning, performance and execution of remotely delivered learning services for the University.

For the 2010-2011 academic period, the following program of work elements have been defined:

PRIMARY COMMITTEE FOCUS

- 1) Instructional Design Strategy and Excellence
 - a) Review and produce a reference distance learning course development checklist; possibly consider if focus should be online only, or if enough commonality exists and would help promote wider use of learning systems and competencies in in-class offerings.
 - b) Survey and develop a list of recommended online best practices, based on experienced online faculty inputs.
 - c) Identify and prioritize recommendations for complementary DL teaching tools, in addition to existing systems.
 - d) Assess importance of undergrad vs. graduate online learning requirements (policies, and needs in the future)
 - e) Retention: assess and understand what appear to be higher withdrawal rates seen with on-line courses.
 - f) Quality of content, delivery, and performance for distance learning processes, faculty and tools.
- 2) Infrastructure
 - a) Support UTD/Cisco telepresence initiative in terms of determining near-term potential/availability for use in DL delivery and infrastructure; recommend specific pathfinder use if appropriate.
- 3) Policy
 - a) Review the strategic role of distance learning with respect to UT Dallas' mission and vision, and strategic plan.

STUDY/SUPPORT FOCUS

- 4) Support to LMS Committee initiatives
 - a) Support and review that committee's efforts and schedule for developing an RFI/RFP associated with future systems for eLearning due to defined end of life point in the current LMS and DL infrastructure/systems.
 - b) Support benchmarking of learning management systems and online offering environments from other (competing) universities, to better define policy and requirements for future system evaluations.
- 5) Follow OEE efforts involving:
 - a) "how to be a good online student" training plans

- b) Use of Qualtrex as an updated survey tool
- c) Piloting of Tegrity as a lecture capture system

The committee plans to meet 1 time per month on average. The above actions will be further prioritized and addressed by the committee, as many are interrelated, based on events and time availability.

Submitted:

10/28/2010
