Joint Committee on Online and Distance Education  
Meeting Minutes  
March 19, 2014  
Galanti  
3:00-4:30PM

Present: Andrew Bauerband, Laura Beauvais, Jill Doerner, Deborah Mongeau, Joannah Portman-Daley, Anne Seitsinger, Kathleen Torrens.

The meeting opened with approval of February meeting minutes.

Office of Advancement of Teaching and Learning  
Laura Beauvais distributed a draft of the mission and initiatives for the development of an office for faculty support in teaching. Currently she is visiting offices that will be affected by this change, but has not been able to present at the Faculty Senate or JCAP. The vision is to be in one space, probably a relocation to a central location so the (currently) separate offices can be integrated.

Anne Seitsinger wanted to include support for teaching large sections, which was favored by the other committee members. She has a list of schools that have a similar office/center and what services they offer and will share with committee.

The committee all agreed these were exciting initiatives.

Proposal for Sakai Vendor  
Kathleen presented the Provost recommendation letter to move Sakai to a supported vendor. A few points in the draft need to be changed, including making the actual recommendation clear. Under recommendations, it needs to be clear that a committee is only recommended if the provost supports moving to a vendor. We discussed making the costs/benefits more visible in the draft. A new draft of the document will be brought to the next meeting.

Online Faculty Training Recommendations  
The recommendations were forwarded to deans, but the committee discussed how this was ineffective, that the training recommendations appeared to be optional and not mandatory. There needs to be more context when presented to faculty (regulations and accreditation standards mean not optional).

Diane has offered to be present in dean and chair meetings to bring more awareness to this training requirement. We discussed how to make this actually mandatory — Needs to be required at the University level, but departments expected to enforce the policy.

Programs Moving Online – RN to BS and Dietetics  
The contract with Academic Partnerships did not work out because they expected a minimum of 5 programs to go online and we were only looking for support with one (RN to BSN). We are planning to move forward with the program without a vendor. This will mean not as many students, but will still be able to support Rhode Island students, and build from this.

The Dietetics masters program is still planning to move online.

This requires Sakai to have 24/7 support.
**Alternative Semesters Online**
The Online Office will work this summer to develop a plan to have alternative semesters roll out by Summer of 2015.