Joint Committee on Online and Distance Education

Minutes

May 3, 2013

Present: Laura Beauvais, Diane Goldsmith, Jill Doerner, Katherine Boden, Arthur Mead, Vince Petronio, Anne Seitsinger, Kathleen Torrens, Kimberly Meyert

1. Conversations with Curriculum Affairs Committee
Starting in the Fall, the CAC will approve online courses by the course itself, not the instructor. Once the course has been approved it will be the Department’s duty to select appropriate instructors. The online courses for the Summer will be fast-tracked through CAC approval. The CAC is working with faculty individually rather than having the entire committee work on and approve. The CAC is finding that the interaction piece/discussion forum activity is not always clear in the syllabus.

2. Update on Sakai Issues
The Sakai team has solved the problem of student work becoming inaccessible in Sakai when they graduate. For this year’s graduates, access will be in place no later than July 1, 2013. By September this will be retroactive to the beginning of the implementation of Sakai. Student work will be available for 5 years after they graduate or leave URI. Over the summer, Sakai will be updated to 2.9. While there aren’t major changes to the application, the new features should improve use for faculty and students. There are still complaints that Sakai is very slow with large classes. Diane ensure that this problem remains on the agenda of the LSD committee.

Diane was curious about the best way for faculty to receive Sakai info. It was agreed that a multimode approach is needed (ex. Sakai listserv, Forum-L, Sakai Login page, Business listserv...)

3. Update on Office of Online Learning
Kathleen Torrens has an official appointment letter as the part-time Assistant Director of the Office of Online Education as of June 1, 2013. The Instructional Designer RFP is currently on the President’s desk.

By June 30, 2013 the teaching side of the online website should be complete. The website will contain exemplary syllabi as well as syllabi templates. On the learning side, there was discussion of creating a static website where professors could upload a syllabus for students to view before enrolling.

Katherine Boden asked the office to offer a Sakai training information session at a Grad Student Function. The discussion of Sakai introduction within URI 101 was revisited. It was then suggested that a presentation be made at the URI 101 Faculty meeting.
4. State Authorization Reciprocity Issues
Diane attended a conference on the issue of state reciprocity. Soon, states will authorize and license schools within their state. In the case of URI, once authorized, there would be reciprocity within NEBHE, NEBHE then has reciprocity with other regions. This will require legislative change.

Have a wonderful summer. Our next meeting will be in the fall.

Respectfully submitted,

Diane Goldsmith
May 6, 2013