Joint Committee on Online and Distance Learning

September 25th

Minutes

Present: Christy Ashley, Jill Doerner, Diane Goldsmith, Art Mead, Debbie Mongeau, Anne Seitsinger, Mike Motta, Laura Beauvais, Ben Leveillee, Aria Mia Loberti, Joannah Portman-Daley, Valerie Ryan

1. Introductions: Dave Porter has asked that Ben Leveillee serve on the committee as the MTS representative.

2. Sakai upgrade: Comments, concerns, issues?
   - Syncing Sakai with e-campus was an issue for new faculty - who couldn’t access Sakai or have their courses linked with their rosters in a timely fashion.
     - Mike reported that there used to be an “affiliate” status which would allow faculty this access before their official payroll hiring date.
     - We also noted that there is no information about e-campus access in new faculty packet
     - Diane will discuss this with HR with the suggestion that faculty who have been hired be given access on July 1, and report back to the committee at the next meeting.
   - In general, the committee reported that they like the format of the new Sakai (layout)
   - Sakai accessibility feedback feature is new. It allows student to send ITS a message (by filling out a form) if there is an issue with accessibility (e.g., video not captioned, docs not accessible)
     - All new sites have this added to the left nav bar automatically
     - IT can then contact the instructor about accessibility
     - We should promote this feature to students, so they know about it - what it is and how to use it
     - MTS will be doing workshops on accessibility in Sakai.

3. Statistics on Online Courses 2016-17 (see documents in the folder)
   - Online Courses and Sections
     - We’ve seen an increase in online courses being offered to students
   - Online Course Enrollments
○ We’ve also seen an increase in enrollment in courses that are NOT in the accelerated online programs (RN to BS or MS in Dietetics)
● Training Completions - there was some confusion about this data. Diane said that we would go back and ensure that the data on the web site is accurate.

4. Update on Online Programs
● RN to BS
  ○ High enrollment
  ○ Good course completion and retention rates
  ○ Most students take 1 or 2 courses per session (2 sessions per term)
  ○ Average GPA is high
  ○ Accelerated schedule is better for adult learners - can take one course each session which still makes them eligible for financial aid, but allows them to focus on one course at a time.
● Cybersecurity
  ○ Office of strategic initiatives
  ○ Small group, about 15 students
● MS Dietetics
  ○ Students also partnered with hospital
● TESOL/DLI
  ○ Rhode Island students need to do a practicum for licensure, otherwise it’s fully online
  ○ 60 students this year - expanded faster than expected
● The Communication Studies major is about to be online; in line for approvals. Needing redesign incentives to standardize formats, etc.
● Looking for more programs, certificates, majors

5. Templates: The committee asked about templates for online programs or majors. We discussed that the major reason to have faculty agree on a departmental template is to ensure navigational consistency in all the online courses which eliminates confusion for students. It also allows for departmental “branding” of these courses. The committee asked that the Office on Online Education add resources and examples of templates to our website and any research on using templates.

6. Course Evaluations: Diane announced that URI is in the process of moving IDEA student eval forms online. Students will be able to fill out the form during class on any device they have. They will also be able to complete them outside of class.
7. New Online Pedagogy Class: Joanna discussed the redesign of the Online Pedagogy Course. We have recombined OP1 and OP2 to increase completion rate of the design portion. It is now a four-week completely facilitated course. This format allows faculty to experience what it is like to be a student in an online class. We will run it 3 times a year - once a semester.

8. New Blended Learning Initiative

- Address university space concerns: not enough space for all classes
- Four week blended workshop: face-to-face and online
  - Faculty must apply to take this course
  - Work with faculty to get course site started and map out entire course
  - Faculty will present at ATL showcase
  - Courses ready to run Fall 2018, must be at least 50% blended
  - Webinar this Wednesday at noon (9/27/17) to introduce this
- What about faculty who want students to have a face-to-face experience on their first day of class?
  - Can have introductory materials on Sakai for students to go over on the first day and have face-to-face on the second class day
- Blending well is important - online portions and face-to-face classes integrated, not having separate work for the online portion and in-person class portion
- Also, don’t need to go through the same course approval system for blended courses as for online course
  - Those who participate in this workshop will have to have a QM review of their course through Online Ed

9. Goals for 2017-18

- Onboarding new faculty
- Accessibility outreach - letting faculty know the tools are available on Sakai
  - Also accessibility drop-in hours for faculty
  - ATL online conversation webinar
- Disability issues - analysis of data from Sakai disability reporting
- Captioning - we have a student who captions videos who would be happy to have more work
- What about materials used in a face-to-face class that won’t be accessible online
  - Can bring these issues to IT - need people asking for accessibility support, so they can make a case for the need for more resources for accessibility
● Student concerns - faculty who use multiple online platforms that aren’t integrated well
  ○ Multiple sites need to be checked, not just Sakai, not intuitive
  ○ Announcements on external platform, etc.
  ○ Have faculty put outside site on the left nav in Sakai so students at least be able to access it all in one place
  ○ Faculty may assume that because a publisher says they integrate with an LMS that it works without checking it
● Licensure requirements - could be changing
● Curricular Affairs Committee (CAC) - do we have anyone who goes there as well?
  ○ Diane attends those meetings

10. The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday November 8th at 1:30 in Chafee 241.