Facility Senate eCampus Advisory Committee

March 4, 2008

Present:  Patricia Cruzeiro, Wyatt Hoback, Scott Fredrickson, Paul Smith, Trecia Markes, Mary Daake, Sheryl Heidenreich, Carol Lomicky, Gloria Vavricka, Steven McGahan

Absent:  Kathryn Zuckweiler

Minutes:

Minutes were approved from the February 5, 2008 meeting.

Old Business:

Update on Online Course Evaluations: Scott and Patricia explained how the College of Education (COE) handles their Student Online Course Evaluations. The Technology Coordinator for COE sends out a URL link to faculty that is to be copied and pasted into Blackboard. The link is usually placed into the discussion thread and announcement page to remind and encourage students to take the evaluation. COE uses a freeware program and not the Opinion instrument. The COE Technology Coordinator prints off the survey evaluation data and comments. The information is then routed to the appropriate parties.

Faculty Senate discussion on name change to eCampus: Gloria gave a brief definition of the titles/names that have been historically associated with the term Continuing Education (off-campus, outreach, distance education, non-credit programs). Since only 1% of the courses offered now thru our operation are face-to-face, and we no longer offer non-credit programs, it made sense to change the program name to eCampus as it lends a better representation of the “electronic” delivery that is now more prevalent with our courses. Carol, Gloria and Steve will draft something for Paul to read at the next Faculty Senate meeting that clarifies the rationale for the name change.

Distance Education Accreditation Report: Focus visit from NCA will be April 28-29. Gloria and members from the committee will be visiting with departments that offer online programs in preparation for the upcoming visit. NCA’s last visit in 2004 had three challenges for distance education to address, (1) staffing, (2) student services, and (3) funding. In addition to overcoming those challenges, we hope to gain blanket approval for new online programs. Several points that we hope will be satisfied are (1) on-campus and online courses maintain the same course content, (2) faculty credentials for both formats are the same, and (3) the growth of online courses is comparable to the national trend.

Gloria recommended that committee members read over the two hand-outs, (1) Summary of Request for Institutional Change Distance Education page, and (2) Best Practices For Electronically Offered Degree and Certificate Programs.

Our next meeting will be April 1 at 10:30 a.m. in CMCT/Room 218.

Respectfully submitted,

Julie Saalfeld