eCampus Faculty Senate Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes
October 25, 2010

Present: Gloria Vavricka, Patricia Cruzeiro, Kathryn Zuckweiler, Doug Biggs, Sheryl Heidenreich, Steve McGahan, Julie Saalfeld

Absent: Scott Fredrickson, Mark Ellis, Ralph Hanson, Mary Daake

Guest: Tami Moore

On behalf of Faculty Senate, Tami Moore was invited to attend the first meeting of the 2010-11 year and gave the constitutional charge for the eCampus Advisory Committee. Their recommendation was that the committee focuses on online student evaluations with the hope that there could be some consistency of coordination/implementation within each college, thus improving the rate of student responses.

What we know at this point:
• eCampus has a student evaluation template that was developed several years ago that is available for the colleges to use.
• Each college has their own choice of assessment models/templates they can use.
• Some of the colleges have combined their online student evaluations to cover both content and technology issues in the same instrument. Combining the two areas really influences the outcome of the evaluation.

Before our next meeting in November, Gloria recommended:
• the committee will review the eCampus student evaluation template
• designate committee members to bring a copy of the instrument their college uses now.

Doug Biggs was again nominated and unanimously voted in as chair for the committee. Julie Saalfeld will serve as secretary.

Budget Update:

Online Worldwide (OWW) now refers to the Non-Residential Tuition Differential funds as the Tuition Variance funds. As a recap, this is the difference between what is charged for on-campus undergraduate and graduate tuition versus distance undergraduate and graduate tuition.

Beginning with fiscal year 2010-11, new state-aid cost centers were created for departments offering online programs & courses. The old non-residential tuition differential revolving cost centers still exist if you have funds left over, but any new tuition variance funds will be allocated to the new state cost centers. Kenya and Gloria determined how much would go into these state accounts based on a percentage of what was returned back to the campus and what was distributed to the departments last year. Fully online programs will receive their tuition variance at the beginning of the year and departments that don’t have fully online programs will get their variance at the end of the year. If you do have money left in your state account after the biennium, it may be carried over if the necessary paperwork is filled out. It is expected that the same model used this year to set up allocations will be
used in the future. There was an inquiry as to what areas tuition variance funds could be expended on. Basically anything that relates to the development and teaching of online courses, whether that is salaries, conference travel, conference expenses, equipment, materials, books, software, curriculum content materials, coordinator’s stipend.

**Online Worldwide Update:**

Arnold Bateman, Director of Online Worldwide, is retiring at the end of the year. Gloria is on the search committee for his replacement. Central Administration has hired an outside consultant to help conduct the search process. In December the search committee will fly to Chicago for two days of screening/interviewing applicants. The goal is to have a new Director hired by January or February.

**Other Business:**

Gloria shared some information she received from OWW from the 2009-10 school year.

- UNO: 33% of all students are distance ed only
- UNL: 41% of all students are distance ed only
- UNK: 75% of all students are distance ed only

**New Resources:**

Steve informed the committee that eCampus is currently in the process of doing a search for an Instructional Designer. This person will assist the College of Business & Technology faculty with their online teaching needs. We hope to have someone on board by December.

Steve brought the committee up to date with several new resources provided by eCampus that are available to online students and faculty.

- For Students: A resource called **SmarterMeasure** which helps identify levels of student readiness for online learning. SmarterMeasure has been used by thousands of students to determine if distance learning is a good fit for them. Institutions use SmarterMeasure to increase their level of retention in online degree programs. Because student success is contingent on multiple variables, SmarterMeasure is not a predictive tool. Rather it is a diagnostic tool to identify students who are at-risk of not doing well in online courses due to measured sets of traits, skills and knowledge. Then it makes recommendations or gives resources on how to correct those problem areas.

- For Faculty: Two online site licenses were purchased for:  
  **Respondus**: Respondus is a powerful tool for creating and managing exams that can be printed to paper or published directly to Blackboard.
  **StudyMate**: StudyMate helps students “master the basics” of course materials. Instructors or students enter glossary terms, facts and questions using simple templates. These materials are then transformed into a dozen learning activities and games, such as flash cards, crossword puzzles and self-quizzes. Students choose activities that
appeal to their learning style, engaging them with course content in a powerful, individualized way. StudyMate integrates seamlessly with Blackboard for easy instructor facilitation and grading.

One of eCampus’s goals for spring is to have an online faculty orientation developed. It will give online faculty a better idea of who we are, the services we provide, and a resource repository filled with helpful online tools, tips, and articles.

For our next meeting, Julie will send out a doodle to see which day in November works for the majority of the committee members.

Respectfully submitted
Julie Saalfeld