

Memorandum

Date: 17 May 2010

To: Faculty Senate

From: Michael Bowman, Chair, Educational Policy Committee

Re: Online Learning motion

EPC proposes the creation of a one-year ad hoc committee called the Ad Hoc Committee on Online Learning.

Structure

The Committee shall consist of five members representing four Senate committees and one administrative committee. Each of the following committees will choose one of their members to serve on this ad hoc committee: Academic Requirements Committee, Educational Policy Committee, Graduate Council, and University Curriculum Committee. In addition, the four faculty members serving on the Collaborative Online Learning Team will choose one of their number to also serve on the ad hoc committee. The committee shall select a chair from among its five members.

Charge

The committee is charged with studying and making recommendations on four issues related to online learning.

Short-Term Issues

1. The committee shall meet with University Counsel and gain clarification on the ownership of class materials. The policy regarding this is clear, but specifics on how it specifically applies to online courses is not. The committee needs to ascertain how this policy will be interpreted for online courses (in particular, what constitutes incidental use for online course development) and make that information available to the faculty.
2. The committee shall recommend to Faculty Senate a decision on the level of curricular review, if any, required to transition an existing face-to-face course to an online course.
3. The committee shall recommend to Faculty Senate whether any new academic requirements are necessary for online courses.
4. The committee shall work with Online Learning and the Center for Academic Excellence to ensure that a sample of best practices (including assessment) is made available by the instructional designers for faculty to consult while developing their courses.

On-Going Issue

The committee shall discuss faculty support and campus infrastructure issues, such as technical support, testing support, cost, workload issues, and student support (particularly for students without computers of their own). Those discussions will be taken back to COLT, as appropriate, to aid in their deliberations. The committee will recommend a mechanism for future years to ensure faculty input on these issues.

The committee will report to the Senate on these issues by the June 2011 meeting.