

## **The Distance Education and Learning Technology Committee**

Wednesday, February 26, 2014 at 3:30 pm in Brewster B-104

### Attendance:

Regular members: Rose Bailey, Lida Cope, Xiangming Fang, Timm Hackett, Karl Wuensch

Ex-officio: Chal Benson, Wendy Creasey, Ken Luterbach, Clayton Sessions

Guests: Elmer Poe, Dorothy Muller, Ginny Sconiers

### Agenda:

1. Approval of November 13 (lack of quorum on 1-22) and January 22, 2014 minutes.

Minutes of both meetings were approved unanimously

2. Dorothy Muller – Mentor Group Proposal

The DELTC has reviewed a proposal for a mentor group that would function as part of the Faculty Senate. The proposal suggests that members of this group would be given service credit for being on the list and thus willing to assist other instructors at ECU. Dr. Muller suggested that creating this mentor group and making the contacts on its members available to all faculty at ECU would be helpful.

Dr. Muller distributed two documents: *Mentoring at ECU: A History and Revised proposal 2.25.14* and *Mentoring – Getting Started* [attached]

In the first document, we focused on Resolution #93-27 (p. 5) and an update (p.13) including a report on unit mentoring to provost and faculty welfare committee. The most flashed out program at that time came from the Joyner Library.

Dr. Muller suggested that we should look at an alternative model by collecting expertise around the campus as some faculty members would choose to serve as mentors as part of their service load. Also in the past, ECU retired faculty association was asked to consider having members serve as mentors but they would want compensation we could not provide.

Dr. Muller read through the second document, drawing our attention to pages 2-3. The following points were then discussed:

- “Faculty would not be assigned to a mentor from their home units”—the committee thought it should be permissible if a mentee wished to work with someone from the same unit
- The question came up as to how active and effective the existing mentoring programs in the units are: some are active and some remain largely on paper.
- Research and statistics series (OAE) – some faculty who went through the training agreed to become contacts for any faculty needing assistance within this subject matter

- In 2002 there was a *Mentoring Collaborative* proposal – including at least 8 units – but it didn't last beyond one semester.
- A question was asked whether an interested mentor candidate would have to commit to the full number of hours (if they are unable). Dr. Muller noted that the proposal is a draft open to revisions and that it can be more flexible in that. The number of hours given is, at this point, arbitrary.
- Is there a desire for this to become a Faculty Senate resolution? Yes, Dr. Muller is interested in the backing of our committee to support it through a formal process
- Is it worth pursuing? How can it be improved? What will the next steps be? Would it be a good idea to elicit feedback from our units?
- Would have important implications for Distance Education
- Should this go to the Committee for Faculty Welfare now for feedback as well?
- It was suggested that the mentor/mentee might need to draft a plan at the beginning of the year that would be at least somewhat measurable. As part of the plan they could negotiate the amount of the time devoted to mentoring activities (Elmer Poe).

Action:

"DELTC supports the establishment of a method of providing mentoring to those teaching online and others interested in the use of instructional technology" (Karl Wuensch) was seconded and unanimously approved.

The DELTC will revise the *Mentoring – Getting Started* document to reflect our discussion while considering DE mentoring factors.

### 3. Wendy Creasey – IRCC Updates

#### Update on Pearson *MyLabs* products

Trying to negotiate contracts with big vendors to have building blogs integrated into Blackboard. For any cloud hosted online tool, there is standard language that needs to be in place insure that assessment information in the cloud is secure and protected.

- IF we are able to get Pearson in place, then we may pursue Web Assign and Wiley. We have received a request.
- If you install the publisher plug-ins on Blackboard, then ECU account and publisher (e.g., McGraw-Hill account) get connected and grades would be pulled from them or the other way around (the pull/push concept). It takes a long time to negotiate such contracts so there is no firm deadline – work in progress.

#### From IRCC (2-26-14)

- Wireless funds to be applied to where specific feedback received on East and West campus
- Pirates and Buccaneer network (the latter is encrypted)
- Classroom – Allied Health refresh has been done; rooms for the summer in Science and Tech building will go through the same, numerous rooms on east campus and in Brody being refreshed this year.
- Close to completing the contract with Lynda.com; there will be a pilot for students

- Bb Outcomes Portfolio Discussion: Bb outcomes – cross-campus group – consideration given to whether an e-portfolio and outcomes product should be added to Blackboard for departments and colleges; also to collect data on learning outcomes and connect the data across programs, courses, and units. It would be in conjunction with iWebfolio not in place of. The discussion will come back to the group after the cross campus group makes a recommendation.

#### 4. Ginny Sconiers – Cornerstone – DE Module Update/Cornerstone

Ginny Sconiers presented a draft of the design and function of Cornerstone – a tool to register for training and keep track of completed sessions

- The 6<sup>th</sup> module, accessibility content, is now available under DE faculty development modules
- Quizzes: How many items are there in each module to draw from? They range from 5 to up to 15.
- The 6<sup>th</sup> module still needs to be reviewed so it's not yet available.
- At this point the training should be still taken via Bb (this in progress)
- Will be voiced-over
- College administrator will be able to pull reports from individual transcripts; if csv. can be uploaded into Sedona, it should be possible to import one's report into Sedona.
- Should be ready by Fall 2014 in time for new faculty to be able to use
- The training information can be made publicly available (so that a new faculty member just hired could check the modules without having access to ECU yet). None of the information is protected.
- The Camtasia module removed but Tegrity still on contract; there still may be new tools; also MyMedia site hosted by ECU.

The DELTC was pleased with the progress that has been made regarding the functionality and content of Cornerstone.

#### New Business:

#### Next Steps:

1. Request input from Registrar's office regarding DE Registration Format from Angela Anderson. As noted in our goal, the DELTC committee is to work with registrar's office to find a way that makes it easier for students, who are registering for classes, to tell whether the format of an offered class is face-to-face, hybrid, or online. Additionally, some online classes have required synchronous sessions and by placing a day of the week in the course schedule, often times students are unable to sign up for more than one class if another online class has the same day noted regardless of the time difference. Do you have any other thoughts on how this could be remedied when entered?
2. Request feedback on comments sent to ELearning Workgroup.
3. Continue to review feedback and monitor the use of the DE Training Modules. Review new module added during 2013-2014 year, addressing ADA.
4. Do we need further discussion of Goal Eight - discussion of the role of MOOCs at ECU.

## DELTC Goals: Academic Year 2013-2014

**Goal One:** Present to the Faculty Senate our recommendation that faculty who serve as peer observers of online teaching be permitted to count that activity as an approved activity for the purposes of satisfying the annual DE professional development required of all faculty teaching online courses, but not more often than once every three years. **Completed**

**Goal Two:** Review and align current support mechanisms in place at ECU to meet the policies outlined in the Strategic Directions Workgroup Reports, with focus on the E-Learning Workgroup.

**Goal Three:** Work with registrar's office to find a way that makes it easier for students, who are registering for classes, to tell whether the format of an offered class is face-to-face, hybrid, or online.

**Goal Four:** Develop a list of experts who can be consulted for assistance with pedagogy and technology relevant to online teaching.

**Goal Five:** Continue to review feedback and monitor the use of the DE Training Modules. Review new module added during 2013-2014 year, addressing ADA.

**Goal Six:** Discovering what policies university units have with respect to what types of activities are approved for satisfaction of the annual training required of those who teach online.

**Goal Seven:** Review of yet-to-be-released policy on pedagogical tools provided online by text book publishers.

**Goal Eight:** Discussion of the role of MOOCs at ECU.

Submitted,  
Lida Cope, The DELTC Secretary