

Learning & Technology Roundtable

Thursday, October 30, 2003

2:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.

CSU 204

Present: Ron Browne, Susan Coultrap–McQuin, Dan Cronn–Mills, Don Descy, Scott Fee, Brian Groh, Cathy Hughes, Mark Johnson, Tim Kochery, Mark Kump, Nina Lenoir, Angela Monson, Ian Radtke, Joan Roca, Warren Sandmann, Tim Scott, Gary Urban, Steve Vassar

Absent: Greg Bednar, Frank Birmingham, Jan Eimers, Dave Gjerde, Joel Jensen, Kent Kalm, Joan Klanderud, Henry Morris, Patrick Sexton, Wayne Sharp, Robert Zelin

Guest: Jerry Anderson, Terry Flaherty, Ted Johnson, Randall McClure

The group was welcomed to the meeting. Brief introductions were made by Jerry Anderson, Terry Flaherty, Ted Johnson, and Randall McClure.

Minutes

1. **MSU Conference: Wireless and Mobile Learning Technologies Conference: November 4 – 5 (Tues/Wed)**

There are 113 registrations for the Wireless Conference. Faculty from MSU, Winona and St. Cloud will be presenting. Vendors such as H.P., Apple, and Dell will be present. The vendors will not be presenting a sales pitch.

NEW BUSINESS :

2. **Distance Learning Taskforce – Terry Flaherty**

Terry Flaherty discussed the Distance Learning Taskforce. He handed out documents that stated the committee's charge, a student services checklist, and a draft of the Distance Learning Taskforce response to the Enrollment Management Draft Plan.

There are certain things that need to be in place as we begin to deal with distance learning. The Student Services Checklist addresses some of the things that are in place and those that still need to be worked on.

Dean Flaherty introduced the draft of the Distance Learning Task Force's response to the Enrollment Management Plan pointing out that it takes a holistic approach and uses data from external studies related to distance learning. Feedback is encouraged.

Draft of Distance Learning Funding Proposals – The yellow handout follows MnSCU's definition of a distance learning program as one that meets no more than one time in a face-to-face class session. In order to receive credit from MnSCU, we must conform to their definition.

The Distance Learning Taskforce took the President's charge, that the courses be self-supporting” very seriously. The funding proposal for Distance Education was presented. Presently, on-campus students pay \$30 per credit in fees. Of this, 90% goes to a variety of agencies. Extended campus student fees go into a separate fund that is called delivery fee. These fees are mixed and the amounts are pro-rated to go to the departments that offer the courses. The proposal for Distance Learning Courses proposes that these fees would be set aside for program use and fund distance learning. Dean Flaherty would welcome a recommendation or response from the LTR regarding this proposal. This will be revisited at the next LTR meeting. MnSCU has been receptive to charging additional fees for online courses, and other campuses are already doing it.

In response to the recent call for proposals from the Distance Learning Task Force, five proposals for online courses have been funded. These courses were announced on Friday, October 31st.

Most graduate programs are currently at capacity so other ways to offer these needed to be addressed. The President's charge was that these need to be self-supporting. How to generate resources in order to sustain online courses needs to be addressed.

The IFO Contract, Article 10, Subd. 6 covers packaged courses. This is where some dollars go directly to the faculty member when teaching online courses. Bemidji and St. Cloud are using this method. Bemidji does most Distance Education in their Business and I.T. programs. This seems to be a powerful incentive. The earnings do not count towards the overload maximum of 5 credits.

Vice President Trauger is willing to accept that revenue would be treated like the summer courses that departments currently offer. This would be efficient to get the departments to schedule more effectively. The simple formula of a fixed sum per credit per student could be used. If 10 per section offered a break-even point, the additional credit-dollars beyond the 10 th student could be returned to the department with the program. This fenced revenue would be tied to the program that generates the surplus. This would support Distance Learning and may be the best that we can

do with the current budget climate.

There was brief discussion on who owns the courses that will be offered. Further campus discussion will need to address these issues. Bemidji State identifies that the content belongs to the department and the format is under academic freedom for each faculty member to decide. Faculty members sign an agreement with their department to this effect. The content will stay with the department after a faculty member leaves. More discussion is needed and we will need to conform to MnSCU guidelines.

Online formats are accredited through Higher Learning Commission (HLC). They go through the curricular process. Delivery does not affect assessment.

These funding issues need to be resolved soon. The Distance Learning Task Force would like a response from the LTR as a group or from individuals that wish to respond.

PROPOSED ACTION: The LTR will review the document at the next meeting and will draft a response statement.

3. **Reactions to Visit by Lynette Olson, MnSCU E–Learning Accreditation Project Director**

Lynette Olson, MnSCU E–Learning Accreditation Project Director, came to discuss accreditation processes for online courses under the new MnOnline umbrella.. Courses can be submitted to the Higher Learning Commission (HLC) on a program by program basis (one by one) but the HLC doesn't want to get flooded with proposals. MN Online acceptance from HLC suggests that institutional accreditation is a better route rather than going to HLC program by program. If we do this as an institution, there will be an accreditation visit to see if MSU is capable of supporting online courses. The Distance Learning Task Force would like a recommendation from the LTR in this regard. Unless we have accredited programs, we are unable to advertise them.

ACTION: After some discussion by faculty members in LTR, there was full consensus from the LTR to send the recommendation to proceed with institutional accreditation. Warren will communicate to the Distance Learning Task Force.

4. **MSU Portal Project Update** – Ted Johnson, MSU ITS web coordinator, presented the MSU Portal Project update. Some examples shown to the group were Colgate University and SCSU Consortium. It is hopeful that by the end of winter break, there may be a pilot to launch. This project came out of a recommendation from the Student LTR.
 - a. **Wireless at MSU: Past, Present and Future** – Jerry Anderson, MSU OIT Streaming Media/PDA Coordinator presented a preview of his presentation that he will be offering at the upcoming Wireless Conference.
 - b. **Online projects in English** – Randall McClure, English, spoke of online projects that are

a joint venture between the Center for Academic Success and the English department. They are working together to develop an online writing lab (OWL). One goal is to go to real time support. They are in the process of checking to see what other Universities have done (Purdue's OWL has been a pioneer in this area). A catalog of existing sites is being created.

UPDATES: (Due to time constraints, updates were postponed until the next meeting.)

5. **ITS** – No update.
6. **OIT** – No update.
7. **Student LTR** – The Student LTR has met.
8. **MnOnline** – No update.
9. **IMS Selection Process** – No update.
10. **Adjourn**

[Home](#) | [Contact Us](#)