

To: HTCTU advisory committee

Re: Distance Education Update

From: Laurie Vasquez, Santa Barbara City College Assistive Technology Specialist

Date: 2-7- 2014

1. CCC Online Education Initiative (CVC Online Course Exchange)

The grant recipients have identified the structure of the committee and sent out the requests for participants from the various organizations for a steering committee and key committees. The group is looking forward to getting started and doing the work in order to make the C C C online course exchange a reality and success.

Reminders

Oversight is Academic affairs and Technology, Research and Information Systems Units in the Chancellor's office.

Goal/Purpose:

- Provide students with opportunities for faster degree completion
- Provide effective professional development looking to teach online
- Use a common technology platform to streamline processes, improve access to and success in online courses and reduce the technology "learning curve" for students, faculty and staff.

For further information see CCCCO press release –

http://californiacommunitycolleges.cccco.edu/Portals/0/DocDownloads/PressReleases/NOV2013/PRESS_RELEASE_BOGGrants_111213_FINAL.pdf

2. State Authorization – An approach for national reciprocity in distance education

The Federal Regulation: Chapter 34, § 600.9(c) e-CFR

"If an institution is offering postsecondary education through distance or correspondence education in a State in which it is not physically located, the institution must meet any State requirements for it to be legally offering distance or correspondence education in that State. An institution must be able to document upon request from the Department that it has such State approval."

"...the Department will not initiate any action to establish repayment liabilities or limit student eligibility for distance education activities undertaken before July 1,2014, so long as the institution is making good faith efforts to identify and obtain necessary State authorizations before that date."

GOOD Faith Effort...towards meeting this new regulation

“...may include any one or more of the following items:

- Documentation that an institution is developing a distance education management process for tracking students' place of residence when engaged in distance education.
- Documentation that an institution has contacted a State directly to discuss programs the institution is providing to students in that State to determine whether authorization is needed.”

Translation: The Chancellor's office is working on this with the help you campus DE coordinators.

The earliest that California can join is a year from now because of legislative requirement. It takes time for legislation to be developed and take effect. Once legislation in California is approved it doesn't take effect until January one of the following year. That will be January 1 of 2015. It could actually go a couple of years. People are being cautious. to make sure that we cover all our bases.

Federal authority is driving this discussion... people want to make sure we have the appropriate language in state legislation to protect California about any external responsibility oversight. Don't want to position California in a negative way.

This is complicated, policy wrangling. Money is involved. You don't have to provide instructional services to students outside of the state of California. These are cost benefit decisions that each college has to make with guidance from the Chancellor's office.

We are required by our own education code in Title 5 to charge out of state fees which are established by each individual college and based on the cost of instruction. T

The State Authorization Reciprocity Agreement (SARA) is a new initiative designed to safeguard distance-learning students and provide them with greater access to online courses, as well as to protect state and institutional interests.

The current process is too varied among the states to assure consistent consumer protection, too cumbersome and expensive for institutions that seek to provide education across state borders, and too fragmented to support our country's architecture for quality assurance in higher education — the quality assurance “triad” of accrediting agencies, the federal government, and the states. A new, voluntary process of state oversight of distance education has been created to redress these problems. The State Authorization Reciprocity Agreement is a voluntary agreement among its member states and U.S. territories that establishes comparable national standards for interstate offering of postsecondary distance-education courses and programs. It is intended to make it easier for students to take online courses offered by postsecondary institutions based in another state.

3. Chancellor's Office distance education surveys for students and faculty

These survey's normally come out the end of the fall. They are a little behind. Some questions are being revised around state authorization. The survey will be the same. This survey is done to gather information that is not gathered through M I S.

Questions are not asked that are already being answered in our state MIS system. The results are reported to the Board of Governors. This is title 5 requirement.

Student satisfaction survey last year was done in the fall. This year it is done in the spring to see if there are any differences.

The Chancellor's office will be working to revise and develop a faculty satisfaction survey to do at the end of the spring term as well to evaluate our faculty is satisfied with teaching online. They will work with the state academic senate and the DE committee.

One of the questions that the academic senate is interested in, is a number of faculty that may be teaching with some type of online teaching certification or preparation versus those that aren't and if there some differences and outcomes for students. This survey hasn't been finalized yet.

Important that faculty have gone through some type of certification to be able to teach distance education. Right Now the Chancellor's office approach on certification for teachers is really wide open. They accept certification from pretty much any established program.

For instance if your college came up with its own faculty certification program, they would accept that. They wouldn't be saying the faculty certification program needs to meet the -- standards for the program. **They would say the courses need to meet standards.**

There are many certification programs out there that faculty coming into our system take. Chancellor's office doesn't want to try and legislate that. They aren't there yet for developing standards. State Academic Senate has to weigh in heavily, other difficult to move forward. More to come.

Reminder – To read the statewide report on distance education, August 2013

http://californiacommunitycolleges.cccco.edu/Portals/0/reportsTB/REPORT_DistanceEducation2013_090313.pdf

4. Distance Education Coordinators Organization

We have now an official California nonprofit organization. The name is "California Community College Distance Education Coordinators Organization. (CCCDECO). They will seek 501(c3) status.

This solidifies things legally. They are supported by the CIO's and CCCIO's groups who provided seed money for start-up.

The first large group meeting will be held soon.

It will play an advisory role to the Chancellor's office in the areas of DE. De representation will come from that group on CCCCO advisory committees. Members are DE coordinators. This is their way of banding together to have a more official role in representation re: distance education statewide. Remember your DE coordinators vary across the system; they can be administrators, faculty, classified, part-time faculty. Documents, dues structure and benefits of paying dues still needs to be worked out.

Primary initial tasks

1. Setting agenda for 2014 Online Teaching conference

Website for online teaching conference - <http://onlineteachingconference.org/>

2. Work with the online initiative grant in an advisory role and where it grows from here.