THE UNIVERSITY OF LOUISIANA AT MONROE
University Electronic Learning Committee
November 9, 2006

Members Present: R. Jones (Chair), P. Thornhill, A. Tan, A. Allen, P. Wiedemeier, S. Choo, J. Guernsey-Shaw, R. Hanser, G. Eller, B. Smith, D. Glaze, T. Sivakumaran, C. Berry

Members Absent: M. Camille (excused), M. Beutner (excused), D. Williams (excused)

This meeting was called to order by committee chair Dr. Rhonda Jones on Thursday, November 9, 2006 at 2:00 in Hanna 250. The following items were discussed.

Item 1 – Recognition of New Member

Andy Allen replaced George Roberts as one of the UELC members from the College of Health Sciences.

Item 2 – Summary of SELECT Grant projects
ULM received four of the ten funded SELECT grants. On each grant, a member of the UELC was the PI or Co-PI. Dr. Jones recognized those UELC members and asked them to give an overview of their grant.

Item 3 – College E-Learning Plans

Arts and Sciences
Core English and History courses have been developed
There is no current plan to develop other core courses
Administration is hesitant to recommend courses or degrees to be put online because they do not want department heads or faculty to feel it is a mandate
Administration indicated online courses were not economically feasible
There seems to be a prejudice against putting mathematics and science courses online
Humanities courses are perceived as better candidates for online delivery
There seem to be unclear messages from the Board of Regents

Business
Has developed some 300+ level courses
In order to develop a degree, the university would need to commit to put core courses online
Have lost a lot of faculty; remaining faculty have more class preparations; many online classes have changed to hybrid
Economics has inquired about online classes; they are concerned about retention
With regard to putting the MBA online, the concern is that the faculty will not be willing

Education
The MAT program classes will be hybrid for the academic year but face to face in the summer
The college is developing a tech mentoring program in which the students will assist the faculty.
Their emphasis has been on integrating technology into teaching rather than developing online classes.
They will have a conference in April on assistive technology.
The issue of incentives for developing and delivering an online class was emphasized.

Health Sciences
A committee has been formed to work on the college’s e-learning plan.
Nursing already teaches ethics and trends and issues courses online.
The plan is to use online delivery to replace class time so more time can be devoted to clinicals.
The ladder programs in CLSC and Rad Tech are good candidates for online delivery.

Questions and Comments
Should we be selective about who takes online classes (limit enrollees for a certain period then open up the remaining positions)?
Should ULM continue to be a regional university, or should we develop unique programs for online delivery and expand outreach?
Should we consider networking with other universities for degree programs?
The issue should be about ULM as a whole, not what’s in it for me.
Online degrees could boost enrollment and add recognition to the university.

Item 4—Retention Rate Discussion Board Item
The responses to the October discussion board question were summarized. Noted as significant are the following:
The need for interaction—student/instructor and student/student
Immediate feedback to students
Student awareness and understanding of online course expectations
The need for a central web site posting syllabi, software, and hardware requirements for online courses
Advisor involvement in helping students understand expectations related to online courses
Compensations such as CDs for students without high speed Internet access

Item 5—Future Meetings
Dr. Jones reminded members of the schedule and format for the meetings remaining in the 2006-2007 academic year.

There being no further business, this meeting was adjourned at 3:10.

Respectfully submitted,

Dr. Rhonda Jones
Director of Continuing Education