

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