

Senate Report
Academic Computing, Distance Learning, and Instructional Technology Committee
January 2006

ACDLIT February meeting will be on Friday 17 February

The January 20 meeting of the ACDLIT committee was convened at 2:15 PM.

Members present:

- Bruno Kappes
- Carol Coose
- Bogdan Hoanca
- Kate Gordon
- Kathi Baldwin
- Andy Veh (via audioconference)
- Sally Mead
- David Meyers
- Diane Erickson

Guests:

- UAA Chief Information Officer Dr. Rich Whitney
- Executive Vice Chancellor for Administrative Services Gebe Ejigu
- Jack Pauli
- Dave Fitzgerald
- Kathleen Voge
- Will Jacobs
- Monica Kane

Reports

Kate Gordon gave a report from the Academic Steering Committee for Distance Education.

Kathi Baldwin reported on activities of the eLearning workgroup of the UTC

David Meyers reported on the UTC meeting.

Discussions: Vice Chancellor Ejigu

Vice Chancellor Ejigu described recent changes in the organization of Educational Media Services (eMedia). In November 2005, eMedia director Donna Schaad resigned from her position as eMedia director. At this time, eMedia is under the temporary leadership of CIO Rich Whitney. There have been no other changes to the structure of the eMedia organization. Dr. Whitney views his role as that of a caretaker until assessment of future directions can be accomplished.

A key question that is being examined at this time is: “How can we more effectively address the needs of the faculty regarding electronic delivery?” The course of this discussion will be affected by the new Provost (when that appointment is made).

A number of questions were raised by members of ACDLIT including:

- Student Technology Fee is inadequate to support needed technology infrastructure.
- Audit needed to track expenditures of STF.
- How should faculty communicate with Vice Chancellor Ejigu?
- When do you anticipate decisions that will affect the future of eMedia?
- Smart classrooms have been built, but there is concern that there might not be funding for maintenance support.
- Need for accountability, and mechanism to ensure (metric to use)?

CIO Rich Whitney

Rich Whitney discussed goals for Distance Education. His view is that there are 3 categories: local students, UA students from other areas, non-UAA students (potentially from very far away). Dr. Whitney supports the notion that we should design to be able to handle the most difficult situation: the “far away” student. If we can support that model, the others are easy.

Will Jacobs

Dr. Jacobs is involved in preparation of a Draft Strategic Plan. His visit was an initial “fact finding” mission for expansion of the current one paragraph devoted to Distance Education. His list of the strategic issues includes:

- What are the core purposes?
- What proportion of total instructional effort ought to be done by “distance”?
- For what part of our total instructional effort is distance well suited?
- How do we assure readiness on the receiving side? (this is an accreditation issue)

A round table discussion of these issues followed.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:15 PM

Additional informational item: The eLearning group is planning to survey students enrolled in classes that use eLive, as part of the product evaluation process. The survey will be strictly about the technology, and not about the faculty member teaching with it. Please inform your colleagues about this. For questions, please contact Kathi Baldwin, Chair of the eLearning group.

Submitted by David Meyers