

Distance Learning Task Force Meeting
2/25/05
Meeting Minutes

Present: Abbott, A., Francois, R., Gulitz, B., Liller, K., Mlynarek, S., Mortimer, J., Rolfe, J., Sanchez-Anguiano, A., and Srinivasan, S.

Absent: Perrin, K

The meeting started at 1 pm in the Dean's conference room and adjourned at 3:00 pm. The following is a summary of the meeting/discussion.

- ✓ Sandhya Srinivasan welcomed everyone gathered for meeting. She presented the agenda and gave a brief overview of the Distance Learning Program, the programs currently supported, level and type of support provided and the other services provided by the program to COPH faculty, staff and students. She also gave a brief overview of staffing as it stands and future directions of the program.
- ✓ Sandhya spoke about the process of online course development and how instructional designers interfaced with faculty to develop course content and course design for online courses. She explained the Instructional Design Model and went over the elements of the initial or discovery meeting with faculty.
- ✓ Dr. Liller introduced the third item of the agenda, Discussion of proprietary rights in relation to online course materials, and explained the need for the College to respond on this matter. She then handed over the discussion of the subject to Dr. Gulitz who had some prior history in this subject. Dr. Gulitz briefed the group that as Principal Investigator to the Innovations in Technology and Teaching (ITT) grant, the grant had employed the services of an evaluation team (comprised of a group of faculty members from the College of Education) who evaluated several aspects of the grant. As part of their role, this evaluation team was tasked with conducting an in-depth analysis of other research I universities, Carnegie universities and other Florida universities on their published policies related to intellectual and proprietary rights to online course materials. This study is currently underway and the final results and recommendations of the group are to be delivered to Dr. Gulitz in the next couple of months. Based on the recommendations, the USF Provost Office will issue a university-wide policy. Dr. Gulitz reminded the group that though at this point this issue looks like a concern for academic affairs, it has other implications, including union input.
- ✓ Dr. Gulitz explained how the copyright, patents and invention office works and administers policy. She explained that in almost all of the literature reviewed, the consensus was that if significant university resources were utilized in the creation of the online course materials, then both the University and faculty member jointly owned the rights to the course. She went on to explain that considerable and significant resources could include the use of the Blackboard or the USF

Portal which encompasses the work of instructional designers and distance learning program staff during the course development process, academic computing resources, help desk support, etc. Extensive discussion followed about this issue and other issues related to patents, textbook royalties, etc.

- ✓ Based on the discussion, the following four issues were identified.
 - The group leaned towards joint ownership of course materials but more debate and discussion is necessary before a final consensus is reached. More information is needed from the ITT evaluation team.
 - What is the definition of “substantial” university resources? Who decides what has been utilized for a course?
 - What happens when a faculty member leaves the university as opposed to a faculty member who continues in the university but is no longer teaching the online courses that he or she developed? One needs to consider the motivation that drives the faculty (and the university) to invest resources in the development of online course materials.
 - The impact of this policy has much to do with understanding the content vs. medium of delivery. Can these two elements be separated in an online environment?
- ✓ The last item on the agenda was allowing international students to participate in the online program. Dr. Francois gave a quick recap of a meeting last Fall with the then Dean of International Affairs, Dr. Joann McCarthy, about this issue. Since the University had no set policy in place and there were several issues affecting such participation, such as sending textbooks, having a support desk that provides 24/7 support, etc., the College had decided to not allow international students to participate in the online program. However, the group realized that for the program to be competitive, international students were a potential market and one that needs to be included sooner than later. This topic requires additional discussion.