Technical Advisory & Distance Education Committee Minutes

Sept. 2, 2015

2 pm

H114

Attendees: Marianna Desmond, Humberto Espino, Myrna LaRosa, Paul Jensen
          Pat Knol, Joe Beuchel, Mukesh George, Patrick Kushino, Regina Hughes,
          Renee Wright, Sara Gallagher, Hilary Meyer

The meeting began at 2:00pm

Topics discussed included:

Prioritizing tasks for the 2015-2016 year:

1. Establishment of a mentor program for online instructors
2. Two tracks for Online Teacher Certification
3. Continuing education

Discussion about implementing a mentoring program for faculty teaching online covered a number of areas/concerns. Pat Knol expressed some concerns about the structure of the program possibility delaying faculty in teaching online. Sara Gallagher commented that we should look at it as a layer of support, somewhat of a sounding board for those faculty in need.

Things to consider: Definition, Expectations, Time Commitment & Compensation

Marianna suggested that we inquire with the academic Deans for their opinion/needs. Paul Jensen agreed and also suggested to inquire about compensation.

Humberto reported that for the fall semester there are 812 sections of BB running, with 7000 students having BB access, and 13,693 enrolled in courses using BB.

Paul Jensen reported that currently 8-9% of course offered at Triton are online courses, with the statewide average being 21%. Would like to see that % closer to the state average. An ongoing issue is that there appears to be good vision in regards to online learning, with a budget and faculty to support, and 90% of the time everyone is in agreement. It’s the 10% that is holding us back. Sara suggested that we can be a bit more careful with the language used so not to leave open to self interpretation which can be somewhat threatening to faculty.

Discussion continued in regards to standard templates where Sara commented that they are intended to be starting points for faculty to customize. Mukesh George commented that a standardized template isn’t much different than creating a course syllabus that has certain requirements to contain. Joe Beuchel questioned the need for a mentorship program if we are already mandating certification. Marianna Desmond suggested that a tier of mentoring opportunities as a possibility to meet the needs of experienced and less experienced faculty.
It was suggested to reach out to other colleges to see what they are doing in terms of online mentoring and think about the discussion today. Sara has agreed to present the master template at our next meeting so that all members will have a better idea of its format.

**Technology Update**

Humberto provided us with a great packet of information with a list of technology updates at Triton. These updates include: Notebook 15, 12 additional new SMART classrooms, 23 additional Brightlink Interactive Classrooms in the “H” building, 3D printing in the CTE, the latest Blackboard upgrade which will be referred to as Learning Essentials Solution. Training will begin this fall and we will go live in the Spring. He also reported that there are currently 6 laptop carts available each having 24 laptops, and reviewed information about online support for faculty and students, and the online protocol for teaching online.

The meeting adjourned at 3:15pm.