

Report (Fall 2011)

Academic Senate Online Education Task Force

Ken Griggs, Chair

The Online Education Task Force for the first time on 11/18/2011 and the following members were introduced-

Ken Griggs, Faculty, COB, Chair of the committee
Cem Sunata, Registrar
Elizabeth Myers, Faculty, CSM
Eric Mehiel, CENG, Chair, Aerospace Engineering
Francisco Fernflores, Faculty, CLA
Gary Laver, CLA, Chair, Psychology and Child Development
Kaveepan Lertwachara, Faculty, COB
Mark Bieraugel, Librarian
Michael Miller, Vice Provost & CIO
Rachel Fernflores, President, CalPoly Academic Senate
Andrew Schaffner, Faculty, CSM-Statistics
Arlene Grant-Holcomb, Faculty, CAFES
Brian Greenwood, Faculty, CAFES

The following agenda items were discussed-

1. The role that CalPoly will play in the new CSU Online initiative
The Chair provided a brief overview of trends in online education and a discussion of the "Katz Report." This report, entitled "Options for the CSU in the Online Higher Education Market," was commissioned by the CSU Chancellor's Office from Richard N. Katz Associates, a consulting company specializing in higher education strategy. An essential task of the committee will be to review this CSU initiative with regard to the future direction of online education at CalPoly.
2. The need to review existing CalPoly Distance Ed policy statement.
CalPoly's distance education policy was formed in 2002 and will likely need a review and an update with regard to applicability, contradicting, responsibility, quality control, etc.
3. The establishment of general principles for distance education at CalPoly and a plan for the future.
4. Intellectual property issues.
Intellectual property ownership and control issues need to be examined by the committee in light of changes in online education technology, the CSU initiative, the collective bargaining agreement, etc.
5. A review of a draft Academic Senate resolution on the CSU online education initiative along with copies of resolutions approved by CSU Stanislaus and CSU San Bernardino. The review was done by email after the meeting

The committee agreed to endorse the attached CalPoly Academic Senate draft resolution. Some committee members provided suggestions for changes in wording as well.

Academic Senate
California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo

Resolution on Direction of Expenditures for the CSU Online Initiative

WHEREAS faculty have primacy over the curriculum and have specialized knowledge of the skills and subject matter pertaining to their respective disciplines, and the expertise and experience to determine which particular pedagogical methods can most effectively convey those skills and that subject matter to their students; and

WHEREAS the success of a system wide online initiative depends crucially on widespread faculty involvement, engagement and consultation at all stages of its development; and

WHEREAS well-designed and executed online programs can be a useful addition to the variety of pedagogical methods available to faculty; and

WHEREAS a CSU system-wide initiative can offer the potential benefits (1) in the financing and marketing of online programs due to economies of scale, (2) in serving as a repository of best practices developed at several CSU campuses, and (3) in creating opportunities for inter-campus collaborations; and

WHEREAS a system-wide online initiative must address in a clear and transparent manner core issues including but not limited to (1) the intellectual property rights of faculty, (2) the quality and effectiveness of online courses, programs and degrees, (3) faculty involvement in curriculum development, approval, and oversight, (4) student, faculty, and program assessment, and (5) the scope and nature of online offerings in comparison to traditional modes of delivery; and

WHEREAS faculty need far greater clarity concerning the core issues (listed above) and other issues than was provided during the CSU Online Webcast of 26 November 2011 during which several important issues were deferred to the newly hired Executive Director for the CSU Online initiative; and

WHEREAS although faculty consultation conducted thus far is described as "broad-based" on the CSU Online website, only ten of twenty-three campuses were consulted; let it be

RESOLVED: That the Academic Senate of the California Polytechnic State University San Luis Obispo call upon the Chancellor to give top priority in all short-term expenditures related to the development of CSU Online to obtaining broad-based faculty consultation across all twenty-three CSU campuses that addresses the multiple and subtle core issues related to the development of CSU Online; and, be it further

RESOLVED: That the Academic Senate of the California Polytechnic State University San Luis Obispo call upon the Chancellor to ensure the CSU neither enter into any contracts with external service providers for CSU Online nor incur any significant expenditures other than for the purpose of faculty consultation until consensus has been reached among all twenty-three campus Senates on a clear and transparent plan for CSU Online.

RESOLVED: That copies of this resolution be distributed among CSU Campus Senate Chairs, the Executive Committee of the Academic Senate of the California State University, Chancellor Charles B. Reed, Executive Vice Chancellor Ephraim P. Smith, Executive Vice Chancellor and Chief Financial Officer Benjamin F. Quillian, the Technology Steering Committee Presidents (Karen Haynes, Jolene Koester, Rollin Richmond, Richard Rush, John Welty, F. King Alexander, Jeff Armstrong, Millie Garcia, Paul Zingg), and members of the Board of Trustees of the California State University.

----- UNUSED WHEREAS CLAUSES THAT MAY BE ADDED -----

WHEREAS the best online programs develop from faculty working on their individual campuses within their particular disciplines who have immediate knowledge both of the demands of those disciplines and the needs of their students; and [NOT INCLUDED BECAUSE I DON'T THINK WE CAN PROVIDE EVIDENCE TO SUPPORT THIS CLAIM IF ASKED THOUGH IT SEEMS INTUITIVELY CORRECT]

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