

EAC Distance Learning Task Force Recommendation

Background:

The EAC Distance Learning Task Force developed a statement of mission, values and goals to help guide distance learning standards and practices. Four groups within the task force were established to focus on issues identified in the analysis of problematic “gaps” in our current practice. Each group prepared a set of recommendations, and their final reports were shared with the EAC (Dec. 2010 and Jan. 2011) in order to solicit stakeholder feedback.

There were many recommendations, and some were fairly straightforward. Others were more complex and/or lacked group consensus, and thus warrant further discussion by a wider group of stakeholders. Some others require resolution in the collective bargaining process. Furthermore, it was recognized that some of the recommendations could be implemented in the context of our current college organization and structure, while others would require more significant changes.

Recommendation:

The EAC recommends that the final reports of the Distance Learning Task Force be sent to a Steering Committee for implementation and/or further discussion and resolution.

The Steering Committee membership will represent various stakeholder groups in the college, and be co-chaired by the Distance Education Director and a faculty member appointed by the EAC Chair.

The work of the Steering Committee will be guided by the statement of mission, values and goals for distance learning (see attachment).

The tasks of the Steering Committee will include the following:

- Identify a set of recommendations that could likely be implemented without further discussion.
 - Bring these to the EAC as a consent agenda. (EAC votes on consent agenda items as a block, without extensive discussion. Items may be removed from the consent agenda if they are deemed to need further discussion by the EAC)
 - Following administrative approval these items would be forwarded to the appropriate operational group for implementation.
- Identify recommendations that require resolution through collective bargaining.
 - Prepare summary of options developed by the DL Task Force groups to inform bargaining
 - Be available to support or coordinate a bargaining subgroup
- Conduct and coordinate further discussion of recommendations that were not resolved by the Task Force
 - Engage stakeholder groups as appropriate (e.g., Student Service, Distance Education, the Distance Learning Advisory Council, EAC, Academic and Student Affairs Council, etc.).
 - Prepare recommendations to be ratified by EAC, and forwarded to administration for approval
- Discuss and develop a vision for Distance Education at PCC that will support ongoing decision-making with broad representation and shared responsibility.

The work of this Steering Committee is expected to be concluded by June 2012.