

SIUE New REALITY eLearning Work Team Reporting Template

Final Reports are due by December 23, 2013

Submit to: shuffst@siue.edu and maschmi@siue.edu

Work Team: **e-Learning Program and Class Selection Subgroup**

Chairperson: **Karen Kelly, Steve Huffstutler, and Matt Schmitz**

Team Members: **Agustin, Zenia; Cobb, Denise; Emmanuel, Ann; Ettling, Mary; Gay, Pamela; Lyman, Elizabeth; McGee, Sharon; Miles, Lora; Nelson, Wayne; Schmidt, Geoff; Shustrin, Kara; Strom, Laura; Swanson, Laura; Thomas, Kevin; Tucker-Loewe, Cheryle; Vanaik, Geet**

Summarize what SIUE has been doing in the area under consideration by your work team. Please investigate the scope and success of SIUE's prior efforts. (Bullet points are fine.)

The sub-group's charge was to identify current programs and courses that are suitable to be offered in a blended or online format. At present, there is no mechanism in place to accomplish this on an institutional level; individuals or departments within the various schools/colleges determine what programs and courses should be transferred from face-to-face offerings into the blended or online environment. The absence of institutional coordination results in a non-uniform method for selecting courses and programs and also the lack of a complete listing of online and blended courses and programs offered at SIUE. (Despite this, a large number of online and blended courses are offered in many departments in each of the schools/colleges. In addition, the Schools of Nursing and Education each have fully online programs and the School of Business is currently working to move the MBA program online.)

Describe promising models from other universities that could be modified, adapted or enhanced for our campus.

Members of the REALITY and eLearning groups, as well as other University representatives, recently spoke to personnel from University of Illinois – Springfield about their online experiences (including their process moving courses and programs into online and blended formats). This information will be used as a guide for SIUE while the University's determines institutional processes for course and program selection.

Using what you have learned, please outline innovative ideas of your own. Again, please list these as bullet points.

- The creation of a RFP process for proposing the creation of online and blended courses or programs. Resources (criteria, models, etc.) will be provided for faculty submitting proposals in an effort to streamline the process and make the submissions more uniform.

- The establishment of a working/executive group to devise guidelines for online and blended initiatives. This includes fee structures, minimum allowable enrollments, costs for developing and/or maintaining a program, need for additional faculty, etc. Information will be included on a webpage dedicated to online and blended education at SIUE.

Please describe ~~two~~ three short-term initiatives that your team views as priorities for SIUE. You should include a rationale and description of resources needed.

- Issue a RFP for market research that identifies suitable online and blended programs, certificate programs, continuing education, professional development, and specialized programs. Use research to create an online strategy for the University that drives online growth.
- In addition to disseminating market research data and the University administration's identification of courses and programs, solicit suggestions and self-selections of courses and programs to move to the online and blended formats from all schools/colleges to increase the development of school/college/department/faculty-driven initiatives.
- To provide student education in respect to online and blended courses, including a definition of the course types, meeting dates, syllabi, and other related resources that prepare a student for an online and blended experience. This information will be posted on the SIUE Online Student webpage (currently in the planning phase). An online student immersion module will also be included in all Bb courses by the Summer 2014 semester.

Please describe other short-term initiatives that your team would like to recommend.

- Maintain existing University funding resources for Academic Technology initiatives related to traditional online and blended courses and programs, including support for innovative, faculty-generated initiatives.
- The need to reconcile the University administration's priorities with school/college/department goals and ideas.
- To resolve whether, in the certification process for online and blended courses, the University will be approving faculty or approving courses. (At present, courses are certified but some faculty and administrators argue that this creates problems when an approved course designed by a faculty member trained in online and blended education is then offered by another faculty member who has not received the same training.)

Please list and describe three long-term initiatives that SIUE should consider to improve in the area under consideration by this work team.

- Create a comprehensive incentive program that encourages schools/departments and faculty to create online and blended courses. Possible incentives could include course releases, dedicated support personnel, or monetary awards. Course development should be considered for inclusion in the promotion and tenure process and as evidence of the scholarship of teaching.
- Create a comprehensive training plan to increase effectiveness in online and blended environments and ensure quality of online and blended courses and programs. This would

include providing training, expanding mentor programs to school/college level (each school college has dedicated or rotating core of mentors to consult about online and blended courses and programs), and increasing the number of instructional designers, media specialists, and other specialized staff to assist with school/college-specific support.

- Strategically focus on the general education requirements in the selection and development of online and blended course offerings.

Please describe other long-term initiatives that your team would like to recommend.

- To share information concerning the unique aspects of online and blended teaching and learning. The participants in this endeavor would include members from administrative groups such as the Dean's Council, Chairs meetings, and Faculty Senate. Information generated by this group will be included on a webpage dedicated to online and blended education at SIUE.