Peralta Community College District

Distance Education Committee Update, May 2017

PCCD Distance Education Committee

The DE Committee completes its second full year as an active committee within the PBIM. The charge of the committee includes reviewing existing DE initiatives, and making recommendations so that PCCD’s DE programs align with the California Community Colleges State Chancellor’s Office standards and practices. DE Committee membership includes faculty, staff, students and administrators, from both instruction and student services, who have training and expertise in distance education.

During the 2016/2017 academic year, the DE Committee met 14 times and accomplished many things, chief among them was leading the district towards a decision to switch from Moodle to Canvas and, subsequently, planning and supporting a viable transition. The DE Committee is not, however, an operational team and, therefore, the committee also deliberated on big picture issues. Below is a brief summary of accomplishments and recommendations from the 2016/2017 year.

2016/2017 Distance Education Committee Accomplishments

- Committee retreat in July of 2016; forwarded recommendations from the retreat to the Chancellor in August, and then to the DEC in Fall 2016. Recommendations included a request for increased resources to better support students and faculty who take and teach online and hybrid courses
- Reviewed and changed course set up in Moodle, and built Moodle help pages for both students and faculty
- Lead district-wide discussions towards a consensus decision to change the PCCD designated CMS from Moodle to Canvas
- Set up PCCD DE Committee webpage with Canvas information and a proposed timeline for Canvas transition
- Education Technology Analyst position (classified staff) changed from .5 FTE to 1.0 FTE
- Developed a summary assessment of if/how each colleges is offering online students support services
- Created protocols that streamline the process for accommodations for online students
- Reviewed and recommended changes to the DE Coordinators Job Duties for Spring 2017 and for the 2016/2017 academic year, to better reflect the needs of the colleges and to reflect leadership in the Canvas transition
- Created a recommendation that all four colleges provide uniformity in student service modules (counseling, tutoring, etc.) within the new Canvas platform
- Reviewed and made recommendations to AP4105 on Distance Education
- Ongoing, throughout the year, deliberations and recommendations to admin for effective rollout and use of Canvas
- Launched a Canvas Transition Team (work group) for summer and fall 2017

Goals for 2018/2019 Year

1. Continue to support improvements to distance education offered at PCCD
2. Improve communication and collaboration among DE Committee, PCCD Distance Education Committee, and the District Academic Senate

Report prepared by Inger Stark, Chair PCCD Distance Education Committee