ATTENDEES: Francine Van Meter, Ed Parrish, Steve Schessler, Jeff Horn, Thomas Lightfoot, Rachel Mayo, Dale Attias, Georg Romero, John Govsky, Veronica Lundquist

Chancellor's Office Updates
During the February statewide DE Coordinator webinar, there was a lot of discussion about "regular and effective contact." It’s in Title 5 55204(a) of Ed code, and locally established requirements are approved by district governing board. Addresses ability of faculty to respond to students in a timely manner; needs to be regular, and be able to assess the level of interaction that is taking place. Discussion included use of multiple methods of engagement, and ways you can determine participation of students. More engagement also helps you insure who the student is (authentication).

AP4105 Distance Education Policy regarding student authentication to the learning management system

Some discussion in Chancellor’s Office webinar about faculty using a non-institutional LMS to teach online. MiraCosta and GCC feel it should be a system-wide policy. All online courses offered by a college use the same LMS supported by that college. The DE Coordinators group will discuss at March meeting. Cabrillo’s Board policy states our online courses be offered through our supported LMS, which is Blackboard. Authentication through the college student information system is necessary to meet Chancellor’s Office and ACCJC standards for distance education programs.

There was also discussion among committee members about student authentication and academic integrity. Authentication is a process used to describe how a student accesses the course via credentials generated by the student information system (Colleague). The credentials give them access for a set period of time (the term length) and each term the student must re-activate their login and password based on registration status. Engaging an online student through regular and effective contact helps insure the student taking the course is the one who registered for it. The committee talked about different methods used to assess students, including on-campus testing, proctoring, CCC Confer videoconferencing, variation in assessments used, etc.

California Virtual Campus Course Exchange and the Online Education Initiative
The California Community Colleges Online Initiative would improve students’ access to courses and increase rates of transfer and degree attainment:

- Creation of a centralized “virtual campus” that brings together several existing distance education services into a single hosting system with a 24/7 support center for students.
- Expanded options for students to obtain college credit by exam. Working with the Academic Senate for California Community Colleges, the Chancellor’s Office will create challenge exams for core courses for Associate Degree for Transfer majors as well as remedial courses.

A steering committee has been formed which includes UC, CSU, and CC reps, and their first meeting is on April 4. Initial focus will be on the associate degree for transfer for fall 14. The committee is looking for high demand courses, and soliciting pilot colleges now for participation in the fall. Criteria include the fill rate of popular online courses: more than 60 days before the start of course, 45-60 days out, 30-45 days out, and less than 30 days.
Top 12 courses (in high demand):
- Reading and composition
- oral communication I
- college writing
- general psychology
- composition and critical thinking
- American government
- elements of public speaking
- statistics
- introduction to sociology
- general biology for non-majors
- microeconomics

According to the Chancellor’s Office, the LMS is not selected yet. Don't need to have a common LMS for the fall. By this time next year it should be identified for Spring 2015. The whole purpose of the exchange is to offer multiple sections of high demand courses. CSU accepting online public speaking courses now.

Update on required DE Orientations and Blackboard Training

The TLC has seen an increase in faculty training now that Blackboard accounts require some training. Training varies based on prior experience with an LMS, technology competency, and need. Many faculty are only using Bb for a web-enhanced experience, to post course materials, and use the Grade Center. Francine has also been conducting distance education orientations for new full time and adjunct faculty planning to teach online in the future.

Blackboard maintenance schedule

Service Pack 14 updates will be applied after spring term is done, but before summer term begins. A notice will be sent to all users about the update. A brief downtime will occur in the middle of the night at the start of spring break for server maintenance installations. Service Pack 14 will include Messages notifications in the What’s New and Due area, enhanced Group management tools, inline assignment grading updates, and minor Grade Center improvements.

Online Degree update

The online degree options for CJ, ACCT, BUS, and CIS should be posted on the DE website in the next week or so.

DE Committee website
http://www.cabrillo.edu/services/disted/de_committee.html

Additional Spring 2014 Meeting Dates in the TLC
Mar. 24, 3:30-5pm
Apr. 21, 3:30-5pm