Notes from Online Education Initiative (OEI) Conference, Feb 20-21
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BACKGROUND: Governor wants to increase access to online classes to help students complete educational goals. 56.9 million was budgeted as a one-time grant for 5 years for the community colleges to set up a system-wide exchange of online classes offered by individual colleges but open to matriculated students from any college. The overall goal is completion (degrees, certificates, transfer). First phase is transfer – all courses approved so far have CID number (nothing below transfer level). Important secondary goals are to improve retention and success in DE, and to increase DE access for basic skills and ASC students. (For greater detail, see http://ccconlineded.org/)

24 colleges were selected from applicants to be part of the OEI pilot. 8 colleges are in each of three groups: the Readiness pilot, the Tutoring pilot, and the Full Launch pilot. Cabrillo is in the Readiness pilot: making students better prepared to succeed in DE classes, which includes best practices in OL instruction. Three Cabrillo courses were selected to be part of the OEI exchange: CJ1 (Jamie Field & Phil Carr); ANTHR 2 (Heather Claussen) and SOC 1 (Liz Roberts). These courses went through an extensive review to be approved; since teaching practice is part of the review, they are only approved to be taught through the exchange if these instructors teach them.

LOGISTICS:
- FTES will accrue to the college offering the course. The course does not “belong” to OEI but to the college.
- Only students who are fully matriculated at their college will be allowed to register for courses through the exchange.
- Registration will be through Open CC Apply. It is one application statewide.
- Online tutoring resources are available through NetTutor.
- The student readiness assessment module is built in SmarterMeasure. Students from our 3 pilot courses completed the assessment module starting the week before classes began.
- The registration period will begin at the start of open registration, so registration priorities will not be an issue.
- The Common Course Design System (CCMS) for courses taught through the OEI exchange will be Canvas (particularly intuitive interface for faculty AND students). Negotiations should be finalized by the end of March.
- Full Launch pilot colleges will move courses to Canvas Fall 2015; expanded to Tutoring and Readiness pilot colleges Spring 2016.
- OEI has contracted with @One to provide professional development to the online instructors involved with the exchange, and to offer PD in OL instruction to colleges system-wide.

WORKSHOPS OF INTEREST:
- NetTutor: Instructors can determine the “rules of engagement” for the tutoring for their course: default is that tutors don’t provide answers, use socratic method and scaffolding to encourage critical thinking. Tools include WorldWideWhiteboard, videos, documentation of FAQs. Synchronous and asynchronous (question drop-off and paper/essay review) assistance.
- Embedding Basic Skills Support into Online Courses
  - Put key information in more than one place; with assignments check for comprehesion often
  - Use links to videos, verbal dictionaries, interactive vocabulary lists, and other online resources to help students with course assignments (See list at end of document.)
  - Example: (for more examples in ESL, reading, library, writing, sociology, math-psychology, I can send PPT)
    - Math (economics): find the equilibrium point for a supply/demand problem
    - Problem: student does not remember how to find intersection point of two lines
    - Solution: “Need help? Press here.” 4-minute video https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=he5HPPlldVY
  - Use of free open source resources like OpenStax
- Supporting faculty to participate in OEI
  - Debunk myths, such as that course review will be used for evaluation (only the instructor and the reviewer has access)
  - OEI rubric can be used to improve OL classes; expertise will be pooled and shared
  - PD can also be used by admin to learn how to more effectively evaluate OL classes
  - Shorter version of @One training for OL certificate (at lower cost or free) is being developed
  - Course reviewer sessions will be offered over the summer
- Addressing Common Course Design Issues
  - Best practices include: put everything into learning modules so activities and assignments are easier to find and limit menu items to reduce confusion; create a Start Here module with orientation information
  - Create a checklist for students, and weekly objectives in written or video format
- Use the SPA method: See it, Practice it, Assess it
- Avoid death by PowerPoint; voice narrate slides instead and save to YouTube so easily accessible via mobile devices

**Admin/DE Coordinator discussion:**
- Primary intent is degree completion/transfer, not to become an online college. Students will probably have limits on number of courses they can take through the exchange.
- Particularly good for courses that cannot be offered each semester because they don’t fill, but ones that students need to transfer.
- There will be no designated % of seats for students from any college. The course will only be offered through the exchange if there are seats available. If it is a popular course that normally fills at the home college, another instructor could apply to be qualified to teach it through the exchange. Or, the college could open another section of the approved course (taught by teacher who went through review).
- Canvas is hosted through the Cloud, no server capacity needed at the college. LTI integration with both Ellucian and PeopleSoft systems.
- The Foundation for the CCCs is negotiating reduced NetTutor licensing fees for all colleges. A blended tutoring model allows colleges to use the software for on-campus tutoring services as well for supplemental support. Cabrillo OEI courses will have access to NetTutor beginning this summer.

**BEFORE CLASS BEGINS**
Introduce the tools and structure your students need to be familiar with to succeed in your course.
- [Developing a Course Specific Online Orientation](#)

**BASIC SKILLS TECHNOLOGY TOOLS**
- [ESL Vocabulary Resources](#)
- [OWL Purdue Online Writing Lab](#)
- [Using Video to Engage Students Online](#)

**UPCOMING CONFERENCE**
- [Online Teaching Conference, June, 2015](#)