

Education Technology Committee

Wednesday, October 8, 2013, 1:00 pm
Location: CHEM/PHYS Conference Room

In attendance: Beth Childress, Ela Kaye Eley, Thomas Murphy, Clifford Padgett, Stephen Primatic, Michael Tiemeyer

Absent: Chad Guilliams (excused), Pam Culberson (ex-officio)

Meeting Minutes

1. Approve minutes of September 11, 2013 meeting.

Minutes approved by email, September 19, 2013

2. Proposal to institute a competency-based assessment for faculty who wish to obtain e-Learning Faculty Status certification without having to take the eLFS course.

In light of a new OLBL Director being hired, Dr. Earlix is postponing the proposal for competency-based assessment for e-Learning Faculty Status.

3. Determine what main duties/priorities of ETC are and whether these duties would be better housed in the proposed University Assessment and Planning, Budget, and Infrastructure committees or should the ETC continue to exist as a standalone committee of the Senate. Report of our mission/suggestions to be sent to current PBF committee and faculty senate.

Suggested proposed changes involving ETC summarized below:

A newly created assessment committee that would take over evaluating the efficacy of the online (and traditional) offerings

Proposed Planning, Budget, and Infrastructure (current Planning, Budget, and Finance) committee would take over technology-centered faculty needs

ETC currently has two main duties:

- Promote/demonstrate the use of technology for effective teaching and provide recommendations to ITS on the classroom technology and faculty resources needed for faculty to effectively do their job.
- Assessment of online courses although the status of this is currently in limbo due to the turnover in the OLBL office.

The assessment of online courses was a new duty assigned to the ETC in Fall 2012. This came from the Provosts office and OLBL office and Kristen Betts and John Kraft attended many of the Fall 2012 ETC meetings.

It is difficult to determine whether the new Assessment and PBF committees could adequately take on these duties without knowing:

- The proposed duties of each committee.
- The composition of each committee.

The promotion/demonstration of technology for effective teaching could be handled by the Office of Faculty Development. However, there is concern that this aspect of the committee's work may not get the proper attention because this office already handles several other duties.

In addition, there is no guarantee that in the future that the person in charge of that office will have an interest in this area. There will need to be a mechanism for training faculty in software/technologies that ITS is not supporting (this is currently a task of the ETC).

Providing recommendations to ITS on the classroom technology and faculty resources needed for faculty to effectively do their job could be done by a new PBF committee. This is a different slant on the work originally intended for the PBF though. The PBF committee could generate an annual or biannual report on the classroom and faculty needs that would be sent to ITS and the administration. There is concern that this committee would already have an abundance of duties, and this one would not be of high priority.

The assessment of online courses should be handled by the Office of Online and Blended Learning rather than the Assessment committee (and rather than the ETC as is currently tasked). This office of OLBL should also continue to train/certify faculty for eLearning (eFaculty) status and the certification should include a balance of technical skills and pedagogy for online courses. The certification should be done by a committee consisting of both OLBL staff and trained faculty.

The online course assessment performed by the office of OLBL should consist of two parts:

- Instructional design and compliance, the assessment for this should be performed by OLBL staff
- Pedagogy (how course is delivered), the assessment for this should be performed by trained faculty or a trained faculty and staff from OLBL

Course content should be assessed by the individual faculty member's department just as in face to face courses.

To summarize, it could be possible for the duties of the ETC to be split between a new PBF committee, the office of OLBL, and the office of Faculty Development assuming each of these bodies had the time and inclination to appropriately handle all of their duties.

Without knowing more about the new Assessment committee purpose/duties and how it will interact with the office of Assessment, we are uncomfortable with ETC duties being transferred to that body.

With the current interaction between the administration and the PBI committee, we are uncomfortable with ETC duties being transferred to that body. For example, without having input to the budget before it is set, the PBI committee cannot help in prioritizing classroom and faculty support needs nor can they ensure that the priorities will be followed.

4. Additional items for ETC to address this academic year

What are possible mechanisms for the funding of non-open student labs (department or course specific labs not open to the general student body)?

Is there a process in place for hiring student workers to monitor non-open student labs?

The committee needs to do a better job of sending reports, resolutions, and bills to ITS, PBF committee, and senate as appropriate so that technology issues are followed up on.

5. Decide on next meeting date.

Meeting is not likely to be needed until January 2014. Open tasks from last meeting involving D2L, SHIP, etc. will be handled by individual ETC members and results distributed via email.

Meeting adjourned at 1:50 PM

Respectfully submitted
Thomas Murphy