

## THE UNIVERSITY OF LOUISIANA AT MONROE

University Electronic Learning Committee

April 3, 2007

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**Members Present:** R. Jones (Chair), P. Thornhill, A. Tan, A. Allen, P. Wiedemeier, S. Choo, R. Hanser, G. Eller, B. Smith, T. Sivakumaran, C. Berry, D. Williams, M. Camille, M. Beutner

**Members Absent:** J. Guernsey-Shaw (excused), D. Glaze (excused)

This meeting was called to order by committee chair Dr. Rhonda Jones on Tuesday, April 3, 2007 at 2:00 in Hanna 250. The following items were discussed.

### **Item 1 – Welcome of visitors**

Attending the meeting were Dr. Stephen Richters, Dean Luke Thomas, Dean Ron Berry, Dean Mark Arant, Dean Jan Corder, Associate Dean Glenda Holland

### **Item 2 – Brief reports/updates**

Dr. Mike Buetner, Dr. Thilla Sivakumaran, Dr. Mike Camille, and Dr. Gene Eller—SELECT grants

Paula Thornhill and Dr. Thilla Sivakumaran—presentations for the Teaching in Higher Education Forum

Dr. Thilla Sivakumaran—recent Internet Safety Conference and upcoming Educational Tools for Success Conference

Dr. Paul Wiedemeier—Consortium for Computing Science in College Conference

Beth Smith—Northeast Louisiana Association of Teachers of Mathematics Conference

Dr. Mike Beutner—Louisiana High School Technology Challenge

Paula Thornhill—Quality Matters training program

### **Item 3 – Reports from colleges regarding online degree programs**

Arts and Sciences

Dr. Rob Hanser reported for the Arts and Sciences committee members. They proposed a new interdisciplinary, undergraduate, online degree program in Human Behavior. Due to the extended process to get a new degree program approved, it was suggested that an additional concentration be added to the general studies degree.

Business

Dean Berry indicated that the college had offered a hybrid MBA in 2005 but discontinued it due to lack of interest by students. He suggested a market analysis to see what the needs are. The College of Business must focus on accreditation for 2007-2008.

Education

By the fall of 2008, the College of Education and Human Development plan to have online master's degrees in Educational Leadership, Elementary Education, Special Education, and Instructional Technology. They also plan to offer online the add-on certification in Library Science.

Health Sciences

The ladder programs in CLSC and Rad Tech are offered online.

The Nursing AD to BS program lacks two courses to be an online offering.

Dental hygiene is looking into offering an online program for AD to BS.

#### **Item 4 –Online Learning Concerns Discussion Board Item**

The responses to the February discussion board question were summarized. Noted as significant are the following:

- Courses are restricted to a limited number of students, thereby making face to face classes more cost efficient.

  - Consider classes for students whose only option is online or who are pursuing a degree online

  - Offer graduate classes, the numbers in which are typically small, and expand coverage to national and international populations

  - Offer online classes during abbreviated class sessions

  - Consider offering a class term during the fall and spring semesters, beginning about mid-semester

- Administrators and instructors are concerned about the integrity of student work.

  - No different from face to face classes

  - Structure assignments assuming students will use books and notes

  - Set a time limit on quizzes that makes using extra materials prohibitive

  - Incorporate more writing in assignments

  - Use proctors

- Students cannot complete degree programs using online technology.

- Students who have the greatest need for online classes do not have the opportunity to participate in them.

  - Offer programs that lend themselves to online delivery

  - Limit/monitor enrollment in online classes admitting first those students with the greatest need

  - Develop more classes, monitor the development to insure quality, seek qualified adjuncts to teach if needed

- From UELC Committee member

  - Integrity of student work

    - See above comments

  - Low quality Internet capability in rural areas

  - Software/hardware for online class development

    - Offer limited options to get started then expand

  - Lack of quality control or evaluation of online courses

    - Consider using the Quality Matters rubric for ULM online classes

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:00.

Respectfully submitted,

Dr. Rhonda Jones

Director of Continuing Education