

Distance Learning Committee
12 October 2009

The Distance Learning Committee meeting was called to order at 1:00 p.m. by Kirk Stephens, Committee Chair. Members attending were Scott Baker, Thom Brooks, Scott Cline, Dale Hall, Dennis Keough, Gene Norton Barbara Putman, Ryan Schwiebert, and Linda Venturo.

Schwiebert made a motion to approve the minutes of the 31 August meeting. The motion carried unanimously.

Keough shared the findings of a Learning Management Systems (LMS) and Moodle study conducted by Bill Randall, Associate VP for Learning Technology Systems at NCCCS. Southwestern uses Moodle for Continuing Education courses, but there are no plans to migrate Curriculum courses from Blackboard. In fact, Curriculum will move to Blackboard Release 9 beginning Spring 2010. Venturo added that she has already prepared training materials for Bb9 and will be conducting workshops for faculty, including one session this week.

Distance Learning offerings continue to increase. At the beginning of the Fall 2009 semester, there were 124 course sections serving 1992 students [duplicated headcount]. Hybrid classes accounted for an additional 101 sections and 1202 students.

The Committee discussed DL's impact on all college resources including student enrollment, advising, financial aid, and student services. Stephens also noted the increasing workload of the DL and computer center support staff. Schwiebert noted that Snapshot (a software bridge between Blackboard and Colleague) would eliminate the manual course creation tasks that tax Venturo at the beginning of each semester.

The discussion of resources will be revisited at the next meeting.

The next meeting of the committee will be Monday, November 30, 2009 at 1:00 p.m.

Meeting adjourned at 2:15 p.m.

[Minutes by Stephens]