

Council on Postsecondary Education
November 5, 2007

Distance Learning Advisory Committee Report

The Distance Learning Advisory Committee (DLAC) met October 17, 2007, with interim Council president Brad Cowgill serving as chair. In his remarks, Mr. Cowgill noted instructional technologies and eLearning were expected to play key roles in helping Kentucky's institutions double the number of Kentuckians with bachelor's degrees by 2020. He also affirmed the role of DLAC in identifying, describing, and promoting ways for technology to address core issues the institutions had identified in the business plans they had recently shared with the Council. Mr. Cowgill encouraged the institutions to collaborate in efficient, effective, and relevant ways between students, faculty, and other institutions.

Dan Connell, 2007-08 chair of the Distance Learning Steering Team (DLST) and also associate provost, Department of Academic Outreach and Support at Morehead State University, reported on DLST activities. He mentioned the recent completion of the statewide CMS (course management system) Help Desk RFP process which was awarded to Blackboard, Inc. He also discussed the Convergence 2007 conference to be held November 1 and 2 at the Center for Rural Development in Somerset. Mr. Connell also outlined planned DLST activities for 2007, including a student services committee convening discussions on joint development of student tutorials for how to learn online and a focus on accessibility of online learning.

Miko Pattie, CPE senior advisor of information and technology, reported on the status of the Kentucky Education Network (KEN) Applications Subcommittee which released its report (<http://ken.ky.gov/>) October 3, 2007. Ms. Pattie also reported on the status of the Kentucky Learning Object Repository (KyLOR) project. Kentucky has been selected by Florida to participate in a Learning Object Repository initiative for which Florida received a FIPSE grant.

Myk Garn, executive director of the Kentucky Virtual Campus (KYVC), gave an update on KYVC items. The new KYVC director for eLearning solutions, Sarah Mann, was introduced. Ms. Mann joins the staff of KYVC from Northern Kentucky University where she supported faculty online teaching efforts. She reported that over 120 slots in the SLOAN-C online workshops licensed by KYVC are currently being used out of the 150 available. Allen Lind, CPE vice president for information and technology, reported that Kentucky institutions have signed up for support of over 150,000 users through the Blackboard helpdesk. Dr. Garn outlined the primary activities of the KYVC 2007-08 Project Plan. Stating that this year will be a rebuilding year, he noted the KYVC will focus on redesigning its student information/catalog software; creating a Virtual Learning 101 online tutorial and renewing its hosting, instructional design, and support services contracts; moving its CMS helpdesk from the current vendor Embanet to Blackboard; investigating a transition from the ANGEL CMS to

Blackboard; supporting the Quality Matters initiative; and anticipating increased focus on marketing, Web site redesign, and a KYVC dashboard in spring/summer 2008.

A proposed KYVC innovation symposium was discussed. Meeting participants expressed support and suggestions for a one-day, leading-edge focused symposium on how technology can help institutions solve problems associated with space/instructional capacity, retention, and increasing quality and interactivity of instruction. The KYVC was asked to consider the symposium aligning with a Council focus on efficiency expected to evolve early in the next calendar year.

Mr. Lind gave an update on the development of the 2008-10 budget recommendation.