

Council on Postsecondary Education
July 24, 2009

Distance Learning Advisory Committee Report

The Distance Learning Advisory Committee met May 28, 2009.

Following remarks from the chair, CPE President Robert King, there was a presentation by Allen Lind called "What Does/Could the Data Tells Us?" about recent growth in distance learning in Kentucky.

The data presented included the following:

- Kentucky public postsecondary institutions have experienced an accelerating growth rate each of the past three years. More than one in five students now takes at least one course online.
- There was a 25 percent growth in the number of distance learning students for fall 2008 and a three-year growth of 68 percent.
- Distance learning students are taking increasingly more credit hours, a 92 percent increase over the past three years. On average 10 percent of all credit hours awarded are through distance learning with KCTCS and Morehead State University in excess of 17 percent.
- More than 55,000 students took at least one online course in the fall 2008 semester. This includes public postsecondary institutions, independent institutions, and licensed out-of-state institutions.

Heidi Hiemstra, CPE interim director of information and research, solicited input for a more in-depth study of the characteristics of these online students being prepared for later this year.

Jay Box, KCTCS vice president, and KCTCS staff made a presentation on KCTCS Online, a new initiative aimed at the adult student. KCTCS Online provides innovative and flexible student-centered delivery of online learning, allowing the student to enroll and begin any day of the year they choose and proceed at their own pace to completion of a growing number of degree programs.

Jamie Keene, Kentucky Virtual Schools director, provided a status report.

Bruce Chaloux, president of Sloan-C and director of the SREB electronic campus, presented preliminary survey results of a study soon to be released from the Association of Public and Land-Grant Universities and Sloan Online Learning called "Provost and Faculty Opinions of Online Learning." Among the preliminary findings from the survey of over 10,000 faculty is that the number one reason faculty want to teach online is for the convenience of their students. The number one reason faculty do not want to teach online is the difficulty of developing an online course. The full report will be released in August 2009.

Staff preparation by Allen Lind