

Online Course Support Committee

Date: Thursday, October 6th, 2022

Room: AB 213

Time: 8:00 a.m.

Members in attendance: Jacob Bonds, Mari Clements, Jason Gum, Gerda Kumpiene, Elizabeth “Liz” Matory, Robin Meadows, Jonathan Minton, Mark Sarver, Trae Sprague, Kandas Queen

Members not present: Patrick McMunn

Guests: none

Robin opened the meeting by providing each committee member with a binder including: agenda/minutes, committee bylaws, and last year’s committee report.

The committee voted for a vice chair and secretary. Liz nominated Robert for vice chair. Robert refused the nomination. Kandas nominated herself for vice chair and all present members agreed. Robert nominated himself for secretary and all present members agreed.

Glennville State University (GSU)’s overall retention percentage for fall of 2022 is 66.437%. GSU’s online retention for fall of 2022 is 58.4%. Comparing the overall retention percentage of other West Virginia institutions with open enrollment (62%) and previous GSU rates, we have improved.

Mark mentioned the need for more support focused for online students. Mary said that many of our online students are working adults.

Robin shared that the enrollment maximum for online courses will be 24 instead of the proposed 30. In this discussion, Mark brought up the “hybrid” language and the fact that international students must be enrolled in 9 credit hours in seat, according to U.S. Homeland Security. He also recommended that GSU Board of Governor’s Policy 32 (32.3 and 32.4) be updated. For example, “Blackboard” should be revised to be “Learning Management System (LMS),” since GSU is not currently using Blackboard for online courses. Robin suggested we add this to our goals for the semester. Additionally, all committee members should review 32.3 and 32.4 before our next meeting (Robin will send these out).

The committee reviewed the Online Course Design survey results. Robin initially sent the survey to all online-only students, but due to lack of responses she sent it out to all students taking an online course by posting the survey link on Brightspace. Jacob will share the results with SGA (except for Question 11). Results show:

- Students prefer having an online orientation
- Students see the value of videos created by their instructors
- Students had negative comments regarding discussion boards
- Students appreciate calendar reminders for assignment due dates

Kandas suggested that instructors should design discussion boards to be more effective. Less questions that have right/wrong answers, more open-ended questions. Jacob and Mari agree that having more open-ended questions that involve application of skills would be richer for

students. Gerda shared that discussion posts should be about practicing students' professional writing and solidifying their thoughts.

Kandas and Robert shared their best practices for rubrics in online courses. Robin mentioned having a professional development regarding rubrics and discussion boards for faculty.

Trae asked whether student feedback has been utilized for deciding on a Learning Management System. Others chimed in and explained that the state decided to go with Brightspace (the only other competitor was Canvas).

Robin shared a Brightspace template that she created. She will add all of the committee members to the course after the meeting.

Mark suggested we have student focus groups about course layout and online preferences.

Robert will add sample rubrics to the shared Brightspace sandbox. Mark will add some content for Module 2.

All members should review the current by-laws and BOG Policies 32.3 and 32.4 before our next meeting.

Meeting adjourned: 9:05 a.m.

Next meeting: Thursday, October 20th, 2022 at 8:00 a.m. in AB 213