



## District Academic Senate News

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August 25, 2014

### Distance Ed Stakeholders Report

The DE Stakeholders, chaired by David Beaulieu, met on Tuesday, August 19, 2014 at the LACC Student Union to discuss a number of pending issues, including the status of the state Online Education Initiative (OEI), state authorization reciprocity, online student support and 508-compliance, and the creation of a summary document of district DE efforts.

Beginning with the summary document, the group decided to request research data assistance from the Ed Services research and planning folks that could update the last substantive evaluation of DE done by George Prather several years ago. The last report was focused only on DE and student success in online courses. The committee decided to expand the report to all modes of DE, including hybrid and web-enhanced courses, the growth of enrollment in DE, student success rates by mode, the growth of online student services, and a review of student demand surveys from the campuses. Finally, the report should provide a list of concerns and problems relevant to the DE program. It was decided that the report should be presented to the Chancellor and a presentation made to the Board of Trustees at an Institutional Effectiveness and Student Success Committee meeting or a Committee of the Whole.

The committee also discussed the progress of state authorization reciprocity agreements and where we stand as a district and the status of state regional consortia ["SARA"]. It seems there are not many students enrolled in DE classes outside California (most seem to be at West, given their large DE program) and a relatively small number of states with charges associated with out-of-state enrollment. Deanna Heikkinen, DE Coordinator from Valley, has been researching this issue and said she would prepare a report for the next meeting.

Don Gauthier gave a short summary of the work by the Single LMS Feasibility Task Force that was completed in March after ten months of deliberations. Joe Perret of Pierce College, and a member of the OEI Distance Ed committee, then provided an overview of the work completed thus far by the state OEI committee, as well as a status report and timeline for the rollout of a state-wide course management system (CMS) in the near future. Foothill and Butte Colleges were awarded the grant to develop the system to focus on gateway classes that students could take anywhere in the state. A few groups of "launch colleges" were created to focus on online support, the learning/course management system itself, early launch, and online proctoring. The implementation plan calls for an RFP this fall and a decision by December 31 for a course management package that would be modified for the needs of the community colleges and deployed in less than a year. The CMS would be provided to all California community colleges at no-cost with 24/7 online support and will be run by the state Chancellor's office. Details of the timeline are provided at the end of this newsletter.

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The meeting concluded with some discussion on the need for support services for online students and discussions involving librarians, student success deans and students.

The following is a brief summary of the timeline for the state CMS development plan provided by the OEI Statewide Program Manager, Steve Klein to our rep, Joe Perret.

1. **RFI Review** (July 28 – August 22)
2. **Distance Education Leaders Discussions** (September 8-17 )
3. **RFP Development** (July 28-September 15, Release RFP September 22)
4. **RFP Responses Review and Scoring** (November 10-13 (tentative))
5. **CCMS Selection Short List of Vendors Announced** (November 14 (tentative))
6. **CCMS Onsite Demonstrations and Interviews** (November 20-21 (tentative))
7. **CCMS Final Recommendations** (December 1 (tentative))
8. **Vendor Contract Signed** (January)
9. **System Deployment for Course Migration/SIS Integration with Pilot Colleges** (February-May, 2015)
10. **Live Courses with Pilot Colleges** (June, 2015)

There is no definite date as yet for a full release of the state CMS.

This does support the decision of the DAS to not recommend the purchase of a district-wide single LMS at this time, given the aggressive time-table of the state project.

Welcome back and best wishes for the coming semester.

Don Gauthier, President, District Academic Senate