Update on Strategic Objectives

Presented to PRAC on Tuesday, May 10, 2011
By Susan Andrien, Director of Learning Resources

1.2 Analyze class scheduling practices and make changes to increase the number of credit hours offered through distance education.

(Champion: VP of Student Learning)

1.2.1 Create a structure and protocol for distance education courses that includes an advisory committee to plan and assess instructional technology at COM, a supervisor of the program, a teacher-resource person, technical support for staff and students, and a mid to long-term instructional technology plan.

75% In fall 2010, the Academic Senate formed the DE/AS Committee; this group has been meeting regularly since then to advise regarding Distance Education practices and procedures. Susan Andrien, Learning Resources Director, is supervisor of the program and since fall 2010, Dr. Alisa K. Klinger has worked as the teacher-resource person. Plans are in place to continue that position through summer, 2011. As we migrate to Moodle as our new LMS, there are plans to address both staff and student technical support. There is a long-term technology plan in place through 2016. However, there needs to be stable funding for the DE faculty resource position going forward.

1.2.2 Based on the data generated in Action Step 1.1.1 and the analysis conducted in Action Step 1.1.2, determine specific targets for distance education course offerings by discipline for fall 2010 semesters. These targets are contingent on progress on providing infrastructure to support distance education offerings.

(Note: an increase in the number of distance education courses offered does not necessarily mean a net increase in the number of sections offered by the program or the college as a whole.)

60% Update on Infrastructure:

First priority was given to improving the rate of student success in DE courses (at 33% in S05, improved to 54% in F11 (attach chart).

I. Progress has been made in providing infrastructure.

1) The DE committee of the Academic Senate (ASDE) recommended that COM adopt one common learning management system (LMS), thus promoting transferability of student and faculty learning, and that we migrate from Blackboard to Moodle.

2) In AY 2009-10 training was provided to student services personnel who are required by Title 5 to provide services in online format for DE courses:

   a) Counseling: In fall 10, spring 10 and spring 11, training was provided. In spring 2011, an IR and D grant was awarded to
c) Alternate Media specialist
Bobby Bradford has reviewed four of our online courses for ADA compliance. A flex presentation on ADA compliance by Jayme Johnson, High Tech Center Training Unit on 1/20, 2011, was attended by twelve faculty and staff.

d) DE Homepage: updated to standardize welcome letters and provide more student and faculty support content. DE.COM, a monthly newsletter providing technological and pedagogical resources and announcements for instructors.

e) Distance Education Support Center (DESC): streamlined and updated student support and assessment procedures

f) Student services: now linked to DE page and developing designated hours for DE services (phone and/or online) for fall 11

3) Moodle migration will delay achievement of 1.2.2 but in the long
run will provide much more stable infrastructure (Trends at other colleges that have adopted new LMS are that a temporary downturn in faculty offerings is common as faculty adapt to new LMS.)

4) Before 1.2.2 can be achieved, a process needs to be developed for ensuring that faculty assigned to teaching new DE courses are qualified in both LMS technology and online teaching pedagogy. This task has been referred to the ASDE Committee for fall 2011.

With infrastructure in place, Moodle Migration achieved, and a process established for recruiting and hiring faculty who are qualified to teach new DE courses, the Strategic Goal of determining specific targets for distance education course offerings by discipline should be retargeted for spring 2012. This goal should be referred to the ASDE committee for advisory input.

Three faculty completed Moodle training in spring 2011 so that they can pilot Moodle in summer 2011. A total of 23 faculty have been scheduled to complete Moodle training in summer 2011. Training consists of formal training through Remote Learner; this summer, the teacher-resource person is scheduled to provide hands-on follow-up with faculty who have completed the online training in Moodle to assist them in migrating their courses. The goal is to migrate to Moodle all courses that are currently in Blackboard for fall 11, then to migrate all courses using other LMS for spring 12.

1.2.3 Based on the targets set in Action Step 1.2.2 and progress on providing infrastructure support for distance education

- Identify specific faculty members to be trained in distance education pedagogy;
- Identify appropriate local training opportunities;
- Ensure that identified faculty members participate in the training.

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50% Please see 1.2.2

1.2.4 Based on the data generated in Action Step 1.1.3 and the analysis conducted in Action Step 1.1.4, determine if the specific targets were met

1.1.3 Repeat Action Step #1 with spring and fall 2010 data to assess changes in class scheduling patterns.

1.1.4 Analyze the patterns for each discipline to
- for distance ed. course offerings for fall 2010 semester and
- for faculty training

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determine if all disciplines provide appropriately equitable student access* at Kentfield and IVC. Establish targets for fall 2011 and spring 2012 semester schedules to

- correct any identified deficits in scheduling patterns
- specifically address student access for working and commuting adults

Given the fact that our DE offerings have been determined by individual faculty taking the initiative to submit course descriptions to the Curriculum Committee, learn to use an LMS and online pedagogy, and get the course on the schedule, institutional planning for the scope and nature of DE course offerings has not occurred. In addition, the college is busy meeting WASC recommendations #3 and #5 that establish specific requirements for DE infrastructure at COM that should be in place by fall 2011. The new target date for SG 1.2.4 should be moved to spring 2012.