

2025 Strategic Plan for Online Education

Meeting Notes

2025 SUS Strategic Plan for Online Education
Implementation Committee

University Conference Center
Room 265

University of West Florida
11000 University Parkway
Pensacola, Florida 32514

March 16, 2016

9:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon

Chair: Dr. Joyce Elam

Members in attendance: Kelley Bailey (by phone), Vicki Brown, Cindy DeLuca, Cathy Duff, Joel Hartman, Andy McCollough (by phone), Pam Northrup, Susann Rudasill

Board staff in attendance: Nancy McKee

Guest: Vance Burgess

9:00 Call to Order and Opening Remarks

Joyce Elam

Joyce Elam opened the meeting by giving an update on the progress of the Implementation Committee since its initial meeting in December 2015. She described the seven workgroups that had been established. Each workgroup has a defined set of deliverables. As requested by Governor Lautenbach, the implementation timeline was adjusted so that all of the deliverables required of the Implementation Committee will be completed by December 2017. During this meeting, she explained that each of the workgroup chairs, with the exception of the Infrastructure Workgroup, will give an update of their progress and bring any recommendations from the workgroup for approval by the Implementation Committee. Joseph Riquelme, from FIU, was recently appointed as the workgroup chair for Infrastructure. He will provide a report at the next meeting of the Implementation Committee in June.

Quality Workgroup:

Len Roberson was leading a student study abroad trip and asked Vance Burgess from UWF, a member of the Quality Workgroup, to provide an update. Vance reported that the Quality Workgroup has met once and reviewed their charge, the overall timeline, and the tactics of the strategic plan that have been assigned to this workgroup. The workgroup expressed the desire to work with the quality workgroup of the FLVC DL and Student Services (DLSS) Members Council as they develop their recommendations.

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One of the recommendations that needs to be made by the Quality Workgroup soon relates to the establishment of a single rubric to be used to determine the quality of an online course. This is a necessary step for both including an indication of quality in the FLVC catalog as well as for designing the award system called for by the plan. The workgroup recommended to the Implementation Committee that the current UF Markers of Excellence be used as the basis for the statewide rubric that the Quality Workgroup will present to the Implementation Committee for its approval in December 2016. The modified UF Markers would be renamed to reflect statewide usage. The Implementation Committee discussed and approved this recommendation for the designation of quality courses, agreeing that the modified Markers of Excellence would be used for everything except delivery of courses. Institutions would move forward with getting buy-in for the use of delivery Markers for the awards program. Institutions could continue to use their own rubrics (i.e., Quality Matters or the OLC scorecard) to designate quality courses, but would need to indicate how their rubrics map to the statewide one.

Data Workgroup:

Susann Radasill described the survey that is being prepared by the Data Workgroup. This survey is in the process of being finalized and should be sent to the IR head at each SUS institution in April. Some preliminary results will be available for the next meeting of the Implementation Committee in mid-June. Final results will be presented by September 2016. The survey being designed by Vicki Brown related to student services will not be included as it needs to be completed by a different set of people than the one being developed by the Data Workgroup.

Professional Development Workgroup:

Cindy DeLuca provided an update on the work completed by her workgroup.

1. Progress is being made on setting up a professional association of instructional designers. A distribution list is being prepared and a pilot site will be launched by May 2016.
2. The workgroup is in the process of identifying opportunities for professional development for institutional distance learning leaders to be offered by FLVC.
3. The online tool kit will be delivered by January 2017 and the first workshop is scheduled to be delivered in the spring.
4. In December 2016, the workgroup will bring forward a recommendation to the Implementation Committee regarding certification for faculty who teach online courses.

Affordability Workgroup:

Pam Northrup provide an update on the work of the Affordability Workgroup. She provided a handout that outlined the major cost elements for developing and delivering online courses. The goal is to identify these costs regardless of the source of funding. Issues in completing their task were discussed including the cost differences between online courses and online programs and taking into account economies of scale.

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Online Programs Workgroup:

Andy McCollough provided an update of this workgroup. The members of the workgroup have been finalized and will be having their first meeting soon. The workgroup includes members of the Implementation Committee, representatives from the college system, as well as other experts in the field.

Student Services Workgroup:

Vicki Brown provided an update on the Student Services Workgroup. Her workgroup had its first meeting and is in the process of developing its own survey. She has sought feedback from the Student Services group of the Florida Virtual Campus. Vicki is planning to visit a number of SUS institutions to learn how each is providing student services. This workgroup is on track to provide their report to the Implementation Committee on best practices for providing online services equivalent to those used by campus-based students by December 2016. At this time, this workgroup will also bring to the Implementation Committee for its approval the scorecard that will be used for institutional reviews.

Closing Remarks:

Joyce informed the group that the weekly conference calls with the workgroup chairs will resume on Friday, March 25. The next in-person meeting of the Implementation Committee will take place on June 22. This will be a joint meeting with the Steering Committee.

At the next FLVC meeting, Pam Northrup agreed to coordinate sharing the progress of the workgroups.