Distance Learning Task Force

Report and Recommendations

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Task Force Charge via HB 7105

- 9 member Task Force – SUS and FCS members
- Study and recommend to Legislature
  - Distance learning definition (fee purposes)
  - Management and promotion of online catalog
  - Development of online registration system
  - Need for Digital Content repository
  - Achieve strategic goals of the state

System Impact of Report

Distance learning as an instructional delivery mode is the fastest growing segment in higher education.

SUS 2007-2008 Distance Learning Data:

- **51**% SUS students took at least one DL course
- **21,257** enrolled only in DL courses; 21% in one year
- Degree programs offered via distance learning
    - **60** Undergraduate
    - **124** Master's
    - **13** Doctoral/Specialist
    - **114** Certificates

System Impact of Report

Shared Services and Programs:

- Florida Distance Learning Consortium
  - All public colleges and universities
  - Open to Independent Colleges and Universities
- Online Catalog and Online Registration
- Digital Content Repository (Orange Grove)
- Collaborative support for distance learning
- Cooperative program development

Define Distance Learning

- "At least 80 percent of the direct instruction of the course is delivered utilizing some form of technology when the student and faculty member are separated by time, space, or both."

- Distance learning fees apply only to courses meeting this definition.

- Hybrid/Blended courses also defined as 50 to 79 percent of the course is delivered utilizing some form of technology.

Formally Establish Florida Distance Learning Consortium

- Manage, operate, & promote Higher Education Distance Learning Catalog

- Improve statewide coordination & sharing of resources and digital content

- Develop strategies to help institutions reduce costs & increase efficiencies

- Provide coordinated resource contracting to leverage statewide pricing for institutions

Online Registration Process for Distance Learning

- Develop student registration process from the online catalog

- Facilitate ease of registration and credit transfer

- Safeguard institutional control of academic programs and the enrollment process

Digital Content Repository

- Reduce duplication in the development of instructional content

- Recover the state's investment in digital content by locating it in a central digital repository

- Facilitate the sharing of instructional materials for lesson plans and courses

- Provide access to open textbooks and digital on-demand publishing

Strategic Goals of the State

- Facilitate completion of associate and baccalaureate degrees

- Collaborative initiatives for critical education and economic needs

- Degree completion opportunities; accelerated and customized for adult learners

Budget Issues

- Online catalog will need funding to rewrite code for growth and stability purposes

- Orange Grove Digital Content Repository seeking $680,000 this year for license buyout

- Incentive funding for cooperative program development

Calculating Distance Learning Costs

Level 4: Specific Course- Related Distance Learning Costs

Level 3: Degree-related Distance Learning Costs

Level 2: Centralized Distance Learning Costs

Level 1: Basic Instructional Technology Infrastructure