

**Present:** Stacy Anderson, Marilyn Bejma, Cheryl Cluchey, Teresa Cook, Julie Coon, Elise Gramza, Jacklyn Hughes, David Marion, Ron McKean, David Nicol, Todd Stanislav, Robbie Teahen, Michelle Teschendorf, Deb Thalner, Spence Tower and John Urbanick

**Call to Order:** 10:03 a.m.

We welcome Andrew Peterson from IT as a guest today.

## CONNECT MICHIGAN

Andrew reported that he attended a meeting of Connect Michigan, a collaboration of community members with a goal of partnership for broadband in the area.

He asked for questions/comments from the group regarding this effort:

- Rural Broadband Initiative is a collaboration of years ago. Awards were given in different areas of the state. Was this referenced in the meeting?
  - This was not specifically discussed.
- Casair Inc. has a project planned for providing the last mile of connection. Was this reported on?
  - Limitations in the technology have prevented the company meeting its goal at this time.
- Dish Network is also offering broadband to customers, but does not have all the answers either. Broadband is getting into the marketplace, but at this time the average person will not be able to get it at home.
- This is something we should definitely take an interest in as a recruiting tool (an incentive to enroll with us and receive broadband).
- This is also something needed for faculty as well as students, and local businesses.
- Was the FCBA represented at the meeting?
  - Yes
- We have the technology to provide broadband, but the community is not ready.
- How much energy do we want to expend to make something happen that will naturally happen soon?
- We have to decide if this is worth having now.
- Connect Michigan expressed their willingness to come and speak with us.
- Casair was awarded money to put broadband into our area, and Paris Township hired Tucker to put up a tower.
- Federal stimulus funds are being used toward this effort. One of the goals is to provide ISP providers connection with the community and create partnerships.
- Getting permits is the most difficult part of the process to provide the service.
- Casair has identified certain areas where they are expanding their service with the funds they have been awarded.

Andy was happy to see education of the consumer has part of the cohort. Deb asked if the request is to have someone from Ferris on the committee, and Teresa felt we should recommend having someone (or multiple people). Deb and John will try to find someone from the Telecommunications group to attend and report back to our group.

## STATE AUTHORIZATION UPDATE

Robbie has written to nine states so far regarding authorization to recruit/enroll students. She has detailed how we are involved in each of their states. We have two replies that we are exempt from fees. There is a state-authorization folder on the shared drive, and copies of everything that has been sent are in it, along with any replies. Work on this will intensify in July. We have not heard from six of the nine inquiries. Alabama requested we fill out their form and send in \$1,000 with it. We are holding off sending in a letter we have to Kentucky as it requires a \$20,000 check accompany it.

As this issue comes more into the spotlight:

1. A federal agency has again reinforced the view of the Secretary of Education that the rules are burdensome.
2. States' rules cannot be usurped.
3. Robbie is not overly optimistic that any states will change their laws.
4. Higher education organizations are at a stage where their representatives have put together a reciprocity agreement.
5. Ferris has expressed its keen interest.
6. The timeline is to present a draft to the state in February 2013 or thereabouts.
7. HLC's position is to give us until July 2013 to be in compliance.
8. Each state has to agree to this reciprocity agreement, and Robbie is not hopeful that will occur.
9. We are probably going to post that we are not going to accept students from Massachusetts because of its laws.
10. We commissioned a study from Eduventure to determine what the different state laws are, and their websites are being checked periodically. It takes about three hours to check each state's website (printing off the guidelines, which can be 50 pages).
11. As others are getting into this issue, they are realizing how burdensome this is.
12. Robbie is slightly optimistic for the long term, but for July 2013, she is not optimistic.

Deb asked if we are allowed to "grandfather" in students who are already enrolled, and Robbie's answer is "officially no." There are people who believe online learning will not continue to grow, and Stacy felt some states may possibly perceive us as trying to "poach" their students. Robbie felt we will be on the higher side of the cost structure because of our internships.

Every state's rules are different. Cheryl reported that in Michigan, physical presence needs approval but we will give an okay if there is no physical presence.

Robbie hopes to have something on the website in January. If we continue to grow online, we will need a fulltime person to work on this aspect alone. This is a serious situation before us, and we will have to make some decisions.

## POLICY DISCUSSIONS

Dave Marion reported that he still has to put out the recommendation that was approved by the Senate. Robbie has not had time to look at the attendance recommendation.

## STUDENT READINESS UPDATE

Deb will email everything to the group and distributed a handout with graphs covering Life Factors, Individual Attributes, Reading Rate & Recall, Technical Competency and Technical Knowledge from the pilot survey. Dave Marion requested a list of names of those who were in the pilot, and Deb will send him that information.

Deb found most questions to be basic “how do I do this,” or “where do I find this,” and she could answer them all to the students’ satisfaction.

She reported that she has also heard from a lot of the faculty that they do not have to keep teaching Blackboard basics, and have had students ready to learn in this environment.

All the sections are now working, and Deb found that the students are completing them. There are no demographics in the survey results, but they are available on the spreadsheet.

There will be surveys to follow up from faculty and students to determine if this pilot helped at all.

She has talked to Bill Potter and Shelly VandePanne regarding MAP-Works. It is a survey of incoming students on life skills, but it does not have the technical components that SmarterMeasure has.

FSUS is so full that they do not have the time to include readiness. They miss the “Bill Knapp” tutorial that they instructed their students to use. Some faculty are making use of Atomic Learning. We have a number of novice computer users in the DCCL program. An overview was put together on which you could see a live person, was about 60-90 minutes, and eased students’ concerns. The video was especially appreciated.

Deb felt we should make decisions after we get the feedback from faculty and students.

## MEMBERSHIP

Deb distributed copies of a table showing our membership and terms of service. Please let her know of any needed changes.

We currently do not have representation from University College, Kendall, MCO and Pharmacy. Appointments should be staggered, but there is nothing preventing any appointment when deemed necessary.

Robbie would recommend that we let the Academic Leadership Council know that we have Ron or Larry representing their group and thus enable the ALC to make this appointment.

We felt that two members of Dean’s Council should continue, as it is good to have two perspectives. We need some historical perspective on how we do things, but we also need the perspective of someone new who may bring new ideas on how to do things.

CAS and CAHS colleges are the most heavily invested in online teaching.

Deb would like to see something similar to the blog on the DCCL website developed for E-MAT. She could maintain and update it. Please look at the DCCL blog.

### **FALL ONLINE ENROLLMENTS**

Cheryl reported that there have been some issues. CAS took some courses and limited them to online off-campus students. She is hesitant to give the open space to on-campus students knowing we are still enrolling for fall. Unfortunately, students are not getting a clear answer when they ask about these courses. Students do not want to wait until the first day of class for add and drop. Cheryl is very concerned about the message being sent, that “you will not be able to get online if you are in Big Rapids.”

Robbie pointed out that this is another indication that we do not have sufficient online capacity to teach the classes that are in demand. We don't have our systems aligned to meet the demand. Cheryl added that CAS wants to determine academically if students need classes online.

### **OPEN FORUM**

Robbie reported that she made a discovery: we are a member and have access to the Education Advisory Board website. Click on University Leadership Council on the right-hand side of the homepage; from there you will be able to sign on and get a login with your FSU ID.

We are also members of the Online Higher Education Learning Collaborative and can access the website with our FSU ID's.

### **NEXT MEETING**

Thursday, August 2, 2012 10:00 am to 11:30 pm CSS-302 (No meeting in July)

Meeting adjourned at 11:40 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Marilyn Bejma