

Present: Robbie Teahen, Cheryl Cluchey, Ellen Haneline, Dave Nicol, Gloria Lukusa-Barnett, Elaine McCullough, Bill Knapp, John Urbanick

Absent: Kristen Salomonson, Leonard Johnson

Suggested charge:

The task force's overarching goal is to plan strategically for e-learning at Ferris State University. Included in this goal is the expectation that the University's e-learning efforts will increase in number and improve in quality. The primary thrust of the group's attention will be in these four areas.

Robbie facilitated the meeting. She suggested the group's charge and encouraged the group to determine if the charge accurately depicts the position this group needs to hold.

Ultimately someone needs to be responsible for the online learning effort, an assignment made to the Associate VPAA at present, since it is more difficult to hold a management or leadership team responsible. However, the intent is that this group will function in an advisory and strategic role.

The team decided that what needs to occur, before the charge of the group can be made firm, is the advisory team needs to know all the other groups that are either directly related to online learning delivery, or are ancillary to it. Possibly the role this advisory team will assume is not only a strategy partner in online learning, but the coordinator of the other focused online learning related groups and will receive input and recommendations from other from the others, as appropriate. Robbie reiterated that this group is not intended to be operational, since other groups are addressing operational issues, but rather to help shape the future of online learning at Ferris State University.

Robbie solicited the hot topics that should be discussed and possibly acted upon "immediately." Priorities need to be determined for the "hot topics."

1. Determine the official site for FerrisOnline courses.
2. Define Blended courses – what sets them apart?
 - a. Disconnects between building room assignments and blended experience.
3. Identify all the overriding policies that could affect policies online.
4. Support – staff for the FCTL and IT, financial aid and student services for online students after 5:00/p.
5. Course load, course caps
6. Course quality
7. The planning process needs to have cross divisional (Administration and Finance; Academic Affairs; Student Affairs; General Counsel, etc.) review for resource allocations
8. What accountability will this group have in relationship to the others? How do we define the precedence of this group, possibly over the other groups – does that need to even happen?

Action Steps:

1. The group decided to table the charge for another meeting after Plante Moran's report, the Steve Gilbert visit for Faculty Professional Development Day, and Gordon Freedman's visit for the FerrisConnect celebration.

2. Enid will collect a list of all the related groups with their charges and send them to the Team prior to the next meeting. Each individual on this Task Force will have the opportunity prior to the next meeting to put their thoughts in a diagram illustrating the relationship each committee has to this management team.
3. The group will discuss the thoughts of the Team and attempt to come to consensus on how each current e-learning group relates to the new Management Advisory Team and develop a viable charge for the Management Advisory Team. (Note: Some have suggested outside the meeting that we need to evaluate the appropriateness of the name of the team.)
4. Next meetings will be 9/26, 10/24 and 11/21. Robbie will send invitations.

Meeting adjourned at 12:00/p. Next meeting will be at 8:30-10:30/a on Friday, September 26, 2008.