Present: Stacey Anderson, Marilyn Bejma, Cheryl Cluchey, Fritz Erickson, Paula Hagstrom, Leonard Johnson, Meegan Lillis, Elaine McCullough, Ron McKean, Larry Schult, Robbie Teahen (by phone), Spencer Tower, John Urbanick

Call to Order: 10:04 a.m.

OPENING OF ONLINE CLASSES

Spence explained to the group that online class shells can be opened on either the first day of class or on a designated date before the semester begins. We no longer have the edit button to allow faculty to designate a date of their choice individually. The advance date decided upon will be university wide. Our preference as a designated date is two weeks prior to the semester start date, and Spence will communicate this to the FAB meeting Thursday at 11:00 a.m. Having a choice of only one date other than first day of class will help reduce student inquiries and confusion.

WAITING LIST PILOT

Cheryl reported that the waiting list pilot failed because BANNER was down at the time. Another attempt will be made for summer registration, starting in January 2011, and for fall registration, starting in March 2011. Currently, there are 1400 names on our waiting list for spring. In the past, our maximum number was in the 600 range.

BLACKBOARD 9.0

Stacey reported that FAB is looking for faculty volunteers for evaluation of Blackboard 9, especially non-super-users. Please spread the word; and if you or anyone else is interested, please contact Mary Holmes. Time line is December – May.

It is really import that we clarify any misperceptions that Blackboard is being forced on faculty. Both faculty and committee members made a compelling case in support of piloting Blackboard 9, and trying alternates, such as Moodle, only if Blackboard proves unsatisfactory. Elaine will include a piece in her next L&L newsletter, with faculty quotes if possible. Stacey will ask Mary Holmes to communicate the reasoning behind the decision through FAB also.

POSSIBLE SURVEY QUESTIONS

Before we go into focus groups, we would like to get a feel for the broad picture of what is on the minds of people in regard to what should be included in an online class at Ferris. The end result should be a comprehensive plan for Ferris's online program. The survey will show us where faculty questions and concerns are. We conducted a faculty survey when online was first introduced, and then another survey last year to evaluate the technical and support systems. This survey is to develop a vision and mission for our online program, asking, "Here's where we are now, and where should we take this?".

We will work to complete a snapshot in December, and present a draft of the survey at the January SPARC meeting.

Presently, we have only one online policy published on the Academic Affairs website. All policies on that website are in the process of being revised and submitted to the Academic Senate.

A discussion of submitted possible survey questions followed in an attempt to categorize them, with the following as our first go at it:

1. TECHNOLOGY AND SUPPORT
    a. Resource Allocation?
2. POLICY
    a. Authentication?
3. QUALITY
    a. Criteria?
    b. Pedagogy? – Best Practices?
4. GOAL/DIRECTION
    a. Rightness?
    b. 5 Years/10 Years?
5. ACCREDITATION, FEDERAL LAWS, STUDENTS
6. STUDENT PREPAREDNESS

SLOAN CONFERENCE

Spence mentioned one interesting fact from the November 2010 Sloan-C 16th Annual international Conference 2010: 18-22 year-old full-time undergraduate students residing on campus represent only 16% of all higher education enrollments. – *A National Dialogue: The Secretary of Education's Commission on the Future of Higher Education, 2008*

NEXT MEETING

December 1, 2010 – 10:00 – 11:30 a.m. – CSS 302

Stacey asked the group to continue to work on organizing the survey questions, and John and Cheryl will bring snapshot data. We'll then work on the next level of questions for the survey and include an explanation of the "Big Tent" idea as part of our process.

Meeting adjourned 11:29 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Marilyn Bejma