First Meeting of the Provost’s Open SUNY Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes DRAFT
Friday, July 19, 2013
Conference Call

Attendees:


I. We began with introductions.

II. Committee members agreed on procedures for distributing minutes.
   a. Minutes will be sent to Ken O’Brien and then forwarded to the group shortly after each meeting. The group will discuss any revisions to the minutes at the next meeting.
   b. Once minutes are approved by the group, they will be posted on the Open SUNY website.

III. The group discussed the charge of the committee.
   a. Communications to campus constituencies will be agreed upon by the group through each step of the process. Message will be consistent with what appears elsewhere on the website and campuses will be made aware of where to find said information on the website.
b. Academic components (curricular) of Open SUNY are the focus of this group, not operational components. The McKinsey group will be working on the structural, financial, and other operational pieces of Open SUNY along with System Administration staff.

IV. The group had an “open” discussion of Open SUNY. Among the points mentioned by committee members were the following:

a. Campuses are wary of Open SUNY’s role in infringing on their respective markets. This group might be called upon to consider how to reduce competition between campuses without interfering with campus role in designing curriculum.

b. There was a wide-ranging discussion on MOOCs and the pending Coursera contract:
   
   i. It’s yet to be determined how MOOCs and open resources will be vetted/chosen. There will likely be a peer-review element, but this group’s role in that process is yet to be determined.

   ii. Transfer in Open SUNY was mentioned as a concern. Members discussed involving the Student Mobility Taskforce to address those concerns.

   iii. A few members expressed concern over the validity of MOOCs as a demonstrated learning tool.

   iv. To date, Open SUNY has been strongly associated with MOOCs, but the group recognizes that Open SUNY will be much more than that and that will need to be communicated broadly going forward.

c. The relationship of this group with other Open SUNY related working groups is yet to be determined, but should become clearer in a few months.
d. This group will work to improve communications related to Open SUNY at the campus level. Campuses should not be surprised by Open SUNY news if this group is successful in its communication efforts.

e. Members of the group had mixed feelings about external recommendations for the structure of Open SUNY that included a separate President, CIO, etc. Staff at System Administration told members that those are simply recommendations and only what works best for SUNY will ultimately be implemented.

f. One member expressed that this group, and others working on Open SUNY, should think in the long-term interest of the citizens of New York State and how we can best serve their needs and interests through Open SUNY.

V. We adopted the following process for determining the next meeting date: each member would indicate her or his free days between Aug. 16 and Aug. 31. These dates would be communicated to the Chair and John McDonald, who would do their best to identify a common open date for a meeting in Syracuse at the Center for Professional Development.