Meeting of the Provost’s Open SUNY Advisory Committee  
Meeting Minutes  
Monday, December 03, 2013  
Multiple Locations by Video  
Albany, Buffalo, Syracuse, Saratoga Springs, Geneseo, NYC

Attendees:


I. We began with approval of the 11/19/13 meeting minutes. Minutes were approved with no revisions.

II. Members of the SUNY team continued the informational session that began at the 11/19 meeting of the group. This section of the meeting started with exploring the current thinking on faculty supports and the proposed faculty center. A member of the SUNY team highlighted that this is an opportunity for us to achieve things we haven’t been able to before and that this is a framework for us to take what we do well to a new level as well as explore new ways to connect and support faculty across the system. A member of the group asked about the relationship between the CPD and any proposed faculty centers. The answer was that this exact relationship is yet to be defined, but the
two will be related. Many group members agreed that participation in the possible faculty center should be optional.

Members expressed concern about faculty resistance to a “certification process” for faculty related to online education. The consensus was that certification could be an option for faculty who desire it and will not be mandatory. A member of the group asked about the cost breakdown for faculty supports. The response was that many of the faculty supports will come from formalizing services that already exist on campuses and establishing a way to share these services with other campuses.

A member of the Open SUNY team presented a revised design for faculty roles. One member described the structure as “inviting.” A discussion followed on the nomenclature of the faculty center, with concerns that “center” implies a physical location. The consensus was that there will be a physical gathering component to the faculty community, and that “center” therefore may not be a misnomer.

A member of the Open SUNY team presented the Open SUNY vision for student supports. A question arose about whether OS will replace SLN in the long run; the answer was yes. A member of the group asked where the concierge resource will come from; the answer was that campuses will dedicate a resource in the short term, and that the long term business plan is still in progress.

The group discussed the possibility of an exploration course. Most members felt that if this course was optional, they were comfortable with it. The group also was interested to see data about students that
do not complete their first online course to prove the need, or lack thereof, of such a course.

The student concierge model was discussed and what the SUNY team believes the concierge's role would and would not be.

For the navigator, it was mentioned that some students will pick courses based on the cost of textbooks, and it would be great to see a future version of the navigator include some breakdown of related course costs.

One member was concerned that degree programs that are not “Open SUNY Powered” will not do as well as those that are. The committee hopes to spend some time thinking about possible implications or inequities in the new year. One member suggested that we make it obvious that there is a path available to all degree programs to excel and become a powered by Open SUNY degree.

III. Updates from the Working Groups
   a. Quality Assurance: Candace Vancko, Cyril Oberlander, Tremayne Price, Ed Warzala, Jason Lane – The group met recently via telephone to discuss their role for the September launch of Open SUNY. A draft rubric was created by the group to possibly use to examine September launch programs. The quality assurance group may asked to do some of the “heavy lifting” on the September programs and will then offer a smaller subset ranking of programs to be provided to the Provost’s office for final
vetting. The rubric document will be circulated to the group for discussion at a later date.

b. **Multi Campus Programs**: Ann Marie Murray, Tina Good, and Lenore Horowitz, Fred Hildebrand – The group has looked into existing models across the system and will continue to do so.

c. **MOOCs**: Christy Fogal, Kathleen Gradel, James Pitarresi and Martie Dixon, and Lisa Stephens – The group has not had a chance to meet since the last meeting.

d. **PLA**: Deb Amory, Sue Deer, Chuck Powell, and Anita Schmidt – The group has not met since the last meeting, but it’s because there was a meeting last week regarding guidelines of PLA and the group is hoping to work with whatever recommendations come out of that meeting rather than “re-create the wheel” and to make sure everyone is on the same page. Empire State College has a grant from the Lumina Foundation related to this. Some agenda time at a future meeting will be dedicated to this.

**IV. The meeting concluded.** The chair will be in touch with one member from each of the groups to discuss final products/documentation for their work this semester. Meetings in the next semester will likely occur once every three weeks with the full group. The next meeting of the full group will be in January before the State of the University.