Meeting of the Provost’s Open SUNY Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes
Monday, February 23, 2015
Multiple Locations by Video
Albany, Buffalo, Fredonia


I. The first item on the agenda was approval of the meeting minutes from the last meeting. Minutes were approved and will be posted to the website.

II. The second item on the agenda was an Open SUNY update from the SUNY team. The regents met and have approved taking next steps for NYS to work with SARA. Members of the SUNY team have started work on a college readiness MOOC as outlined in the Chancellor’s 2015 State of the University Address. It was noted that this may take another form (e.g., an app) to work best for prospective students. The Open SUNY team has been consolidating their listervs to reduce duplication of announcement emails. The marketing team believes there are some tools that can be provided to campuses to advance marketing efforts. Wave II onboarding has begun and the campuses the team has met with have been excited about being part of the
second wave of Open SUNY+ partners. Today the Open SUNY Executive Director interviews began. The Open SUNY Center for Online Teaching Excellence Summit will be held this week. Next week a couple of members of the SUNY team will be going to a Coursera partners conference. A second train the facilitator session was held for the Open SUNY Institutional Readiness process. Deadline for IITG applications is March 02, 2015.

The marketing/enrollment team will be mapping out next steps soon. The SUNY team met with representatives for RankU, a centralized website that contains information about online education options nationwide, and they believe this tool could be beneficial to SUNY.

A member of the committee asked if SARA agreements would remove any charges between states for enrolled students? A member of the SUNY team said that it would only apply to states participating in SARA, any outside of SARA agreements would still need to be negotiated. SED still has some work to do on what the model will look like and any charges that campuses will need to consider.

A member of the committee noted that a campus recently reached out to them to ask whether System Administration was planning to take over assessment/review of all online course reviews. The committee member will respond to the question with detail around plans for course review/refresh (System Administration developed a model to review courses, but will not manage online course assessment/review. Campuses will continue to manage this process as it works best for their administration).
III. The next item on the agenda was reports from the subcommittees.

**Communications:** The group has been looking at internal communications to start. Students have been identified as a critical communication channel that needs to be expanded. Multiple other groups have been identified for communications efforts. Academic support services, and marketing/enrollment points should be included as well. One way the group hopes to enhance communication is via an Open SUNY liaison on each SUNY campus to be point on questions about Open SUNY (potentially appointed by campus CAOs).

The group noted that communication flow is particularly difficult at the campus-level because it can vary so much from campus to campus. It is also critical to develop communications that can be two-way and include opportunity for conversation and feedback from campuses/faculty/etc. Communication with adjunct professors was highlighted as another group that may be difficult to reach. The committee was asked to think of ways to connect with adjuncts in addition to other groups they have identified.

**Curriculum:** This group has yet to find time to meet, but plans to do so soon and will have progress to report for the next meeting of the POSAC.

**Organization:** This group has met and narrowed their focus. They will be meeting with the Provost and others to see how they can best
assist. The next meeting of the group is scheduled for Wednesday and the group will have more to report at the next POSAC meeting.

**MOOC:** A member of the committee briefed the group on current enrollment numbers (92,000+ enrollments) for MOOCs at SUNY. The SUNY team will run some analysis around those enrollments to see if these are mostly new students or existing students. A community of practice around MOOCs (MOOC Shake) has been meeting regularly and sharing best practices on MOOC development.

Coursera has made some changes to the contract since signing with SUNY, and we will need to work through an amendment process with Coursera to accept these changes. Coursera has been putting more emphasis on their learning on demand components.

MOOCs have been used by some campuses to prepare students for job interviews and other post-college skills that could be of benefit. The role for System Admin and campuses is yet to be fully defined. Depending on what campuses would like to see, they could manage MOOC development on their own, they could partner with System Admin, etc. A member of the SUNY team suggested running possible models by campus-level individuals with MOOC experience. A member of the committee asked if we are currently tracking statistics on how students are performing in the MOOC and if we are collecting any information on why students are taking these MOOCs (career development, etc.). Data mining on MOOCs is in the early stages, but there are plans to collect data at that level going forward.

A member of the committee asked if there were any plans for securing
additional or private funding for Open SUNY. The SUNY team noted that this kind of investment will be needed and hopes to pursue some options, but nothing specific is in the pipeline at the moment.

**Quality Assurance:** The group met last week to discuss how additional campuses/programs may be added to Open SUNY+. The group believes that one option for this going forward will be to fold the Open SUNY+ designation process into Open SUNY Institutional Readiness. The goal is to make as comprehensive, yet simple, a process as possible for campuses interested in Open SUNY+ designation. The group noted that students may not be aware that they are in Open SUNY+ programs and may not fully understand what services/supports that affords them. Marketing activities may want to think about linking in some additional verbiage on the benefits of Open SUNY+ partner programs in advertisements. The group is also looking into options for how campuses could re-certify their Open SUNY+ designation periodically. There may or may not be need for such process, but the group is outlining possible models. A member of the committee noted that re-certification could be viewed negatively by campuses, so it is critical that the intent and process be outlined clearly in communications efforts with campuses with feedback from campuses along the way. External program review is an existing process that could be looked at to ensure campuses have a voice in Open SUNY+ certification/recertification.

**IV.** The meeting concluded. The next meeting of the group will take place in March 2015.