

Academic Governing Council
Decision Form

This form is to be used when the Academic Governing Council makes a decision on an issue. This form is sent to the Provost.

Decision:

Approval of the following new academic policy –

“All online and hybrid courses will adhere to the GRCC Distance Learning Standards. The Distance Learning Faculty Advisory Board (DL FAB) will review these standards on an annual basis. The AGC will approve any recommended changes.”

The current GRCC Distance Learning Standards can be found at <http://www.grcc.edu/distancelearningandinstructionaltechnologies/teachingonline/grccdistancelearningstandards>

Rationale:

This academic policy was necessitated by HLC requirements and recommendations, GRCC’s AQIP Quality Checkup, as well as the need for collaboratively-developed Distance Learning Standards.

Supporting Data:

- Our AQIP Quality Check-up required “quality assurance oversight of distance education activities.”
- Our HLC Change Visit recommended “uniformity, design, and continuous improvement.”
- In September 2014, the DL FAB worked with IRP to develop a survey for all faculty (sent 09/22/14). https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/DL_Standards_2014
- The DL Standards Team (volunteer faculty and some members of DL FAB) met to review survey results (11/12/14).
- The DL FAB sent e-mail with results and plan for next semester (12/08/14).
- About 38 faculty participated in the survey. Twelve faculty agreed to help with compiling and sharing the results. Interested faculty met with the DL FAB and reviewed these survey results.
- In February 2015, the team shared the work to date, proposed policy and facilitated an AGC table discussion regarding the standards.
- In March 2015, the team shared the results of all feedback with AGC.
- In April 2015, the AGC approved the academic policy and revised GRCC Distance Learning Standards. The DL FAB agreed to forward implementation concerns to the Provost and to create a glossary of terms.

Implications for Action:

The new academic policy and standards should be:

- addressed in the Online and Hybrid Certification Course (OHCC);
- used in the existing Online Course Development and Review process;
- used to develop and assess Master Courses;
- utilized by faculty as a tool for self-assessment of distance learning courses;
- incorporated into course revision and review processes;
- supported by training and instructional support/design staff;
- addressed in accreditation reporting or updates;
- communicated to all faculty (including a glossary or terms);
- hosted somewhere that provides easy access to all stakeholders;
- reviewed and revised in accordance with the policy.

Some implementation concerns (primarily from faculty) include –

- Who is monitoring the courses?
- Student readiness is important too.
- Need resources (accessibility, IT Infrastructure).
- How will standards be operationalized?
- How will faculty demonstrate compliance with the standards?
- Support should include templates, rubric, design help and examples/models.
- Need student and campus standards.
- What is academic freedom in an online class?
- Faculty should determine how they meet these standards.

Date of Decision by AGC: April 14, 2015

Response from Provost:

Approved. Lanni Chesley.
8-4-15