

eCore Regents Advisory Committee
Fall 2020 Virtual Meeting
November 6, 2020- 1:30p.m.

Committee Attendees:

Dr. Sarah Kuck (Albany State University), Dr. Kokila Ravi (Atlanta Metropolitan State College), Stacy Kluge (Augusta University), Dr. Kevin Demmitt (Clayton State University), Dr. Laura Lynch (College of Coastal Georgia), Dr. Tim Howard (Columbus State University), Dr. Mary Nielsen (Dalton State College), Terri Brown (East Georgia State College), Dr. Asha Warren (Fort Valley State University), Dr. Jordan Cofer (Georgia College & State University), Dr. Teresa Winterhalter (Georgia Gwinnett College), Dr. Tom Harnden (Georgia Highlands College), Dr. Yakut Gazi (Georgia Tech), Dr. Bryan Davis (Georgia Southwestern State University), Dr. Ric Calhoun (Gordon State College), Birchaya Shah (Kennesaw State University), Amanda Smith (Middle Georgia State University), Dr. Sudesh Mujumdar (Savannah State University), Dr. Rob Page (South Georgia State College), Dr. Steve Balfour (University of Georgia), Dr. Irene Kokkala (University of North Georgia), Marsha Dukes, Britt Bugby (Valdosta State University)

System Office: Myk Garn, Jonathan Hull, Jon Sizemore

USG eCampus: Dr. Amy Austin, Jessica Blakemore, Dr. Melanie Clay, Mia Fanning, Julili Fowler, Dr. Nihal Gunay, Dr. Jason Huett, Karen Lingrell, Brett Miles, Wesley Steverson, Christy Talley Smith, Marla Wilkes

Minutes Recorded By Melanie Swisher, USG eCampus

1:00 Sign On to Virtual Meeting

- eCampus staff was present online at 1pm to assist with any technical issues or questions related to using the BlueJeans web conferencing platform. Attendees checked-in before the meeting began.
- Meeting Guidelines and Tech Check was conducted by Jessica Blakemore.

1:30 Virtual Meeting Begins

- A meeting welcome was given by the Committee Chair, Bryan Davis, et al
- A note was made that due to the coronavirus, the committee did not hold a Spring 2020 meeting. The position of chair was unofficially passed from Dr. Jenks to Dr. Davis, and a vote will be held for a new chair-elect at this meeting.

1:35 Approval of [Old Minutes](#)

- The Fall 2019 minutes were called for approval by Dr. Davis and unanimously approved.

1:40 eCore Updates

- Enrollment and General Update
 - An enrollment update was given by Dr. Clay, revealing an unexpected increase from Fall to Fall.

- “Competency Light” Dr. Denley initiative update--Melanie Clay
 - Dr. Denley requested an experiment of using a “light” competency level, meaning keeping the instructional model within the typical semester time frame, opposed to not fully offering a competency course in a more flexible way. This was done using a STATS course, and used frequent homework for students to continue working through problems until they mastered the content, opposed to focusing on quizzes. This used a question bank; proctored exams were given 2 hours to complete a 45 minute exam, and did not use multiple choice so students had to show their work. ABC rates averaged 64-83%, which was greater than expected.
 - Before expanding too much, Dr. Denley requested that this experiment be conducted with another math course to make sure we understand why students are doing so much better. We are only able to compare at competency level, not question-for-question. Goal is to know more about competency, and a final exam prep for 5% would be offered to MLS to compare performance on questions between different sections in order to see what the baseline is before students enter the final exam. This experiment is in the late pilot phase of evaluation now.

- Proctored testing update for fall and spring--Jason Huett
 - Due to covid-19 outbreak, the decision was made with USG to postpone proctored testing in Fall except in STEM classes, ECON, GEOL, and ENVS. eCampus elected to cover the cost of proctored exams for those still required for these courses. Plan is to continue to cover proctored exam costs for these courses while covid-19 numbers are increasing.

- Reinstatement process/G2C update--Nihal Gunay
 - Gateways to Completion (G2C)
 - 2 articles for Psych 1101 and Engl 1101 previously submitted have been approved for publication in an online anthology of online case studies.
 - 3rd year in G2C; continue course revisions and updating the platform.
 - Focusing on the reinstatement process for “act and monitor” phase.
 - Reinstatement Process
 - Data shows that students who get a late start and are reported absent at the beginning of term tend to not do well in the course, and reinstated student success rate is much lower (40s) than those reported as attending. Goal is to reduce the number of students reported absent and improve the number of students getting started in the class on time.
 - Previous attendance verification was both an intro quiz and a discussion post; it was observed in Fall 20 that some students only did 1 of 2 assignments, or a different assignment instead. Starting Spring 21, faculty will be instructed on the preferred way of attendance verification, which is that if a student interacts with the professor or engages in an assignment that is content-specific (discussion, etc.), then they will not be counted as a no-show.

- Noted language change to “should complete” and “may be marked absent”. Also assigning 5 points for attendance activities for incentive to complete 2 assignments.
- Student feedback on course evaluation---Nihal Gunay
 - Dr. Gunay noted that during the pandemic, faculty created content for their home institution courses as well as eCore courses, and we saw flexible instruction for students. Ratings for instructor commitment to success and timeliness are statistically significant and higher post-pandemic than pre-pandemic.
- GOML Transition Update--Jessica Blakemore
 - Georgia on my Line (GOML) is a search engine for degrees in GA. Please email ecampus-webteam@ecampus.usg.edu for updates to your institutional degree updates.
 - Front end redesign was launched in April, and had 57K searches since then.
- QLIK app rolling out; dynamic views of Factbook data- Julili / Marla
 - QLIK Stream has 2 apps and 7 sheets. This work is under review at USG. Once released, partner institution access will be with the current QLIK access, and the eCampus stream will be added to the logins. The apps include the eCore 2016-2019 Factbook USG Demographics and eCore 2016-2019 Factbook USG Grades.
 - Please review Factbook data found [here](#).
- BIOL 1012K, HIST 2112, CSCI 1301, MATH 1001 (Spr 19-) --Wesley Steverson
 - Classes available in eCore over the last year. Launching BIOL 1012K this semester, CSCI 1301, and MATH 1001. So far, courses have a lot of sections open and are doing great.

2:20 USG Update --Myk Garn

- USG updates were given, including:
 - Covid Expectations for Spring 21 Term- BOR Resolution is to return to a safe, in-person instruction, and believes that in-person instruction is good for the mental health of students.
 - Gen-Ed Core Changes and Reform- Timeline has been pushed back. Bandwidth has been around responses to pandemic, so it's been difficult to move these things forward. Next 8-12 months may not have too much discussion on this topic. Not looking at rolling out for FA22 because currently on holding pattern. Expect to see new things in that area, such as new data science course. Working on things that need to change, but standing still on looking at overall clustering and design models/areas are those discussions that are not taking place.

- Knewton- Seeing growth in this, and investing resources in Spring term and doing analysis of these courses using Knewton. Looking at success rates and student performance for courses using adaptive materials at eCampus.
- Accessibility- Blackboard's Ally product is emerging from enabling product. Another product, You Do It, works with other LMS systems and is cheaper than Ally. You Do It Labs is working on a version that can be used with D2L by Fall of next year 2021 and hopefully allows developers and faculty to check their courses for accessibility. It doesn't help with resolving, but helps with identifying.
- Adaptive Courses- Need adaptive tools. Focused on writing. A workshop recently occurred involving 30 experts from around the country that worked through the student writing journey, faculty grading journey, rubrics, tech surrounding learning and instruction, etc.

2:45 New Business

- Virtual lab discussion--Jon Sizemore, Wesley Stevenson, and Jason Huett
 - Due to a high level of interest for viable options for disaster relief on campuses, a shortage of lab kits, vendor issues, supply, equipment, and mailing issues, a pilot was started for BIOL 1011 using virtual software from Labster. This option was better financially and did not have delays in mailing. The floor was opened for feedback to discuss supplementing in-person with virtual labs to assist with social distancing.
- Full time/part-time hiring capacity for faculty to increase--Jason Huett
 - eCampus is open to assisting and working with institutions to potentially buy out teaching time to support your students, and cover the cost of faculty on-campus in areas that are struggling with enrollment issues.
- Redirecting eCore students to GoView--Jason Huett
 - Another finding of Fall 20 reinstatement students is that they do not realize courses are on GoVIEW. Dr. Gunay requested the RAC post the GoVIEW link on their institutions' D2L homepage to direct eCore students. Dr. Huett stressed this request as well.
- Faculty Professional Development Update--Amy Austin
 - Since March, USG eCampus Faculty Development Team has developed resources to help faculty transition to remote instruction, student guide for accessing courses online, and navigating with low bandwidth. Over 100 USG faculty participate in training courses, and earned badges for each course completed. Wiregrass faculty completed over the summer as well. Created eCampus teaching resource center. All of these resources are located in the meeting folder [here](#).
- Benchmark whitelist request---Brett Miles
 - eCampus's mass communication tool is Benchmark. To make sure students are receiving information being sent, such as deadlines that are different on eCore and institution calendars, please send this [list](#) along to your institution to make sure these items have been whitelisted.
- eMajor Update--Brett Miles

- o eCampus services offered to eMajor single institutions ranges from instructional design, faculty support, marketing support, etc. Full suite of services is provided and academic oversight is facilitated for collaborative institutions. OER is important to eMajor, and it may not be feasible for all programs. ORGL and RN-BSN are now 100% OER, and CJ is working on it. For FTA, half of their 7 courses currently offered are OER as well. CPL has 63 different course options for ORGL and CJ combined. Every institution has a cap on CPL though.
- DATA 1501 Addition to eCore (vote required)--Bryan Davis & Jonathan Hull
 - o A vote was taken to add DATA 1501 to eCore. A motion to approve was made by Dr. Jenks, seconded by Dr. Howard. Motion carried.
 - o This approval opens the approval process of potentially adding the course. This addition would serve another math option for students whose programs allow statistics.
- First year experience course---Julili Fowler
 - o Dr. Gardner of the Gardner Institute is working with USG on G2C work. The question was asked if eCore could consider offering first year experience. This Qualtrics [survey](#) was sent to committee members for their input.
- SACSCOC 8.2: Suggestions for eCore Improvements-Jason Huett
 - o eCore courses are revised every 3 years, and year-round revisions are made as well for small items. Any feedback is welcome as we go about revising courses. The deadline of Dec. 15th was given for committee members to fill out this Qualtrics [form](#).
- Updates/Feedback/New Business from Affiliate Partners
 - o Dr. Huett opened the floor to the committee for updates and feedback. Nothing was discussed at this time.
- Call for nominations for new chair-elect--Bryan Davis
 - o Dr. Davis made a motion to call for a new chair-elect vote, and Dr. Calhoun was nominated and received a unanimous vote for yes.
- [Equivalency Chart Review](#)

4:00 Adjourn