

Recommendations of the Ecampus Task Force

August 30, 2011

- Ecampus should be allowed to grow to meet demand, provided the quality of the courses and the educational experience is high, there is capacity (e.g. instructors, advisors) to support the growth, growth is financially viable, and growth is consistent with strategic directions outlined for the University.

Lead: Ecampus leadership and Academic Affairs

Action item: Ongoing analysis and evaluation

- The University should move forward with development of hybrid courses (defined as courses that place a substantial portion of the current on-site format into online learning), giving consideration to several issues including the financial model, incentives, and faculty workloads.

Lead: Associate Provost for Academic Success and Engagement

- The task force evaluated and recommends approval of a funding model to improve the development of creative and often multi-disciplinary coursework at locations off the main campus.

Lead: Provost (fiscal implications to be considered by Academic Deans committee)

Action items: Budget implications considered by October 2011. Anticipated proposal adoption by end of calendar year.

- In a preliminary analysis, student success rates for Ecampus courses were found to be somewhat lower than for on-campus courses. However, success rates for students taking ONLY Ecampus courses were somewhat higher than for on-campus students. The Task Force recommends the following actions for follow-up:

- 1) Conduct a deeper analysis of the student data to identify which (if any) student subpopulations have the more significant success challenges in the Ecampus platform than the general student population
- 2) Fall 2011 share the expanded data set with the Undergraduate Education Council (UEC) for additional feedback and discussion.
- 3) Research possible interventions to bolster Corvallis campus student success rates in Ecampus courses, implement a pilot support program and assess results, reporting back to the UEC and Faculty Senate Distance Education committee.
- 4) Track this (or a similar set of Ecampus course success metrics) annually and discuss with Ecampus and Academic Success and Engagement.

Lead: Ecampus leadership and Ecampus Advisory Committee or Distance Education Committee.

Action item: Additional analysis FY12 and then ongoing as appropriate.

- The task force strongly encourages the University to find a mechanism to allow graduate students to “count” Ecampus courses towards the GTA/GRA minimum course load requirement.

Lead: Graduate School Dean (Fiscal implications to be considered by Academic Deans committee)

Action items: Fiscal implications by October, new policy determined by end of calendar year, communicated in Spring 12 and implemented in FY13.

- Compensation for a given Ecampus course should not be substantially different than for a comparable face-to-face course, albeit with allowances for different levels of effort for different instructional delivery methods, for different disciplines, and for differences in rank and experience of the instructor.

Lead: Academic Deans

Action item: Ongoing monitoring and evaluation

- Regardless of the mechanism of delivery of instruction, students paying Corvallis on-campus tuition and fees should have the ability to fulfill degree requirements without being expected to enroll in an Ecampus course.

Lead: Academic Deans

Action item: Ongoing monitoring and evaluation

- The task force proposes development of a scholarship program (funded with current Ecampus fees and managed by the Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships) where on-campus students can apply for scholarships to cover the cost of Ecampus courses. Criteria for awarding scholarships could include financial need, course required for timely program advancement, and number of courses previously funded by Ecampus scholarships.

Lead: Provost (Fiscal implications to be considered by Academic Deans committee)

Action item: Find a mechanism to provide assistance to on-campus students for Ecampus courses and implement in FY13.

- Ecampus should have representation on the UEC and other appropriate University standing committees. Ecampus should establish an Advisory committee that includes faculty with Ecampus experience and is responsible for advocating for and facilitating the integration of Ecampus into the University's learning environment.

Lead: Ecampus and Faculty Senate Leadership

Action item: Revise standing rules for Distance Education Committee and/or establish separate Advisory Committee for Ecampus by end of 2011.