

Online Education Committee

Annual Report 2016-2017

To: Bob Mason, President, OSU Faculty Senate
From: Raven Chakerian, Chair, Online Education Committee (OEC)
Subject: 2016-2017 Online Education Committee Annual Report
Submitted: June 30, 2017

2016-2017 Membership:

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| Raven Chakerian, Chair | World Languages & Cultures (18) |
| Marita Barth (v. Jameson) | Chemistry (17) |
| Stephen Redfield (v. Dunham) | Electrical Engineering & Computer Science (17) |
| Vipin Arora | College of Business (18) |
| Cheridy Aduviri | College of Education (19) |
| Nancy Allen | Fisheries & Wildlife (19) |
| Jason Sarkozi Farfinski (Student) | Applied Anthropology (17) |
| Walt Loveland | Ex-Officio, Budgets & Fiscal Planning Committee (17) |
| Tom Miller | Ex-Officio, Curriculum Council (17) |
| Stefanie Buck | Ex-Officio, University Libraries (17) |
| Lisa Ganio | Ex-Officio, Graduate Council (17) |
| Lisa Templeton | Ex-Officio, Extended Campus (17) |
| <i>Jon Dorbolo</i> | <i>Executive Committee Liaison</i> |

Introduction and Overview

In September, the OEC chair met with the Faculty Senate Executive Committee Chair, Extended Campus Associate Provost and other faculty familiar with the committee and its history. It was brought to the attention of the OEC chair that finding tangible tasks and achievable goals would be essential to the committee's ability to achieve focus and productivity, given its broad scope. October and November meetings centered on discussing issues related to online education, brainstorming tangible ways to address these issues and establishing goals. Subsequent meetings were conducted as work sessions. Following is a list of issues and projects addressed over the year, including a summary of related activities for each, the current state of each, and any related recommendations that were established.

Membership and Participation

Active participation among the six faculty members, ex-officio members from Extended Campus and University Libraries, and the Executive Committee Liaison, assured productivity and a variety of perspectives. The year began with a graduate and undergraduate student, but participation from both was minimal. Attempts to recruit new student members were unsuccessful. *As the student perspective on the committee is valued, the OEC will aim for a more active recruitment approach next year.* After several years without participating members from both the Budgets & Fiscal Planning Committee and the Curriculum Council, a representative from each was recruited to review OEC meeting agendas and participate as relevant to their respective committees.

Meetings: October 7, 2016; November 3, 2016; December 2, 2016; January 9, 2017; February 17, 2017; March 15, 2017; April 20, 2017; May 17, 2017; and June 14, 2017. Additionally, the Promotion and Tenure Subcommittee and Survey Subcommittee met three times each.

Changes to OEC Policies and Standing Rules

The committee voted to change all references to “distance education” to “online education” in the OEC Scope of Committee policy and OEC Standing Rules in order to more accurately reflect current terminology being used at OSU and beyond. In addition, the committee voted to include hybrid education under the scope of the committee and changed all references to “online” to “online and/or hybrid”. A definition of hybrid education was also added within the Scope of Committee Policy. Finally the addition of an ex-officio member from the Center for Teaching and Learning (CTL) was proposed to the Standing Rules. The changes to the Scope of Committee Policy were approved by the Faculty Senate Executive Committee in their April 28, 2017 meeting and changes to the Standing Rules were approved by the Faculty Senate on May 11, 2017.

Survey

In the 2015-2016 academic year, work began on a faculty survey designed to inform the OEC about issues of importance to faculty with regard to online and hybrid education. This year, the OEC dedicated many hours of discussion and development in order to finalize this survey, which is intended to inform the committee’s work in the coming years. The complexity of the survey content and design led to the creation of a sub-committee, as well as requests for collaboration from beyond the OEC. The OEC relied on the expertise of Cub Kahn in the Center for Teaching (CTL) and Learning for the design of survey questions related to hybrid education. Shannon Riggs and Lisa Templeton, Ecampus and Tasha Biesinger, Instructional Technology Specialist, reviewed the alignment between the content and objectives as well as the general functionality of the proposed design. The survey was presented to the Faculty Senate Executive Committee during the April 28, 2017 meeting, and approved for distribution. The Qualtrics expertise of Stefanie Buck from University Libraries and JoAnne Bunnage from the Executive Committee were instrumental in the survey build. The survey is complete and ready for distribution in fall of 2017. The OEC has identified a need for support to analyze the survey results.

Action: Objectives for next year’s committee include further exploring opportunities to fund access to the Survey Research Center or otherwise resolving the issue of lack of expertise in data analysis within the OEC.

Hybrid Education

Much work done by the OEC this year involved some level of consideration of hybrid as well as online education. Early in the year, OEC members unanimously voted to include hybrid education under its scope. Lack of hybrid expertise within the OEC led to a vote to propose an ex-officio member from the CTL. In addition, OEC members met with Cub Kahn to assure that hybrid education was accurately represented in OEC projects. Input from the CTL was essential to the development of questions related to hybrid education on the faculty survey created by the OEC. The OEC also sought to expand their comprehension of hybrid education by hosting Kahn for an informational session on hybrid education. Finally, through changes to the Standing Rules, the OEC formalized the partnership with the CTL by adding an ex-officio member.

Promotion and Tenure

Much discussion around promotion and tenure-related challenges for online faculty led to the development of a Promotion and Tenure (P&T) Subcommittee. Before beginning work on the subcommittee, the OEC chair met with the Faculty Senate P&T Committee in November 2016 to seek clarification around questions related to how online teaching and course development are considered for P&T. The OEC also sought to learn more about the Faculty Senate P&T Committee's current projects and focus so as to avoid overlap. During three sub-committee meetings, the OEC P&T Sub-committee compiled information related to P&T issues for online faculty. The subcommittee intends to produce a set of P&T guidelines that address issues specific to online faculty. In May, the subcommittee presented a panel discussion to share their initial work on these guidelines at the Ecampus Faculty Forum.

Action: Next year, the OEC intends to finish this resource and make it available university wide.

Online Peer Reviews

In the 2015-2016 academic year, the OEC began discussing the question of online course observations and how and if they are being done at OSU. This year the committee continued to evaluate ways of improving opportunities and methodologies for online course observations. As part of this process, the OEC P&T Subcommittee reviewed and assessed a variety of models being used at other institutions and reviewed the current literature on online course observations.

Action: The committee intends to establish a resource guide for conducting online peer reviews that can be used university wide.

In May, the subcommittee presented a panel discussion to share their initial work related to online peer reviews at the Ecampus Faculty Forum.

Action: Given the lack of literature around this topic, the committee hopes to see more OSU Ecampus faculty motivated to contribute to this growing field of research in the future. In addition, the OEC will collect information related to current practices and beliefs about online course observations at OSU in a survey that will be distributed in fall of 2017.

Intellectual Property

During the 2015-2016 academic year, a faculty member brought the issue of intellectual property to the attention of the OEC. As agreed upon in last year's meetings, this year the OEC attempted to clarify the question of ownership and adequate compensation for materials developed for Ecampus. In discussions with Ecampus, it was revealed that this is an area of confusion and Ecampus has attempted to seek clarification with the General Counsel on this. The OEC brought these concerns to the Faculty Senate Executive Committee meeting on April 28, 2017; the Executive Committee agreed that this issue should be escalated to them.

Recommendation: The OEC recommends that the Executive Committee review the original memo (forwarded to Jon Dorbolo, president-elect) that was sent to the OEC by the concerned faculty member. The OEC also recommends that the Executive Committee work with Ecampus and individual departments to make revenue distribution models for Ecampus development easily accessible by faculty members.

Code of Conduct Review

In November 2016, it was brought to the attention of the OEC that the student Code of Conduct needed editing to better reflect the online environment, and a request was made by Ecampus to have the OEC review it. The OEC chair met with Jessie Nelson to discuss the Code on

November 4, 2016. OEC members reviewed the Code and recommended changes that were reflected in the newly released 2017 version.

OEC Goals for 2017-2018:

- Establish student representation on the committee
- Distribute faculty survey and analyze results; seek support for data analysis
- Look at ways of increasing recognition of outstanding online teachers and students (e.g. establish new awards, look at current awards criteria, and how they may exclude online teachers/students, etc.)
- Finish development of P&T guidelines for online faculty
- Finish development of online peer review guidelines

Recommendations: See Intellectual Property section above.