

Online Education Committee

Annual Report 2017-2018

To: Jon Dorbolo, President, OSU Faculty Senate
From: Raven Chakerian, Chair, Online Education Committee
Subject: 2017-2018 Online Education Committee Annual Report
Submitted: June 20, 2018

2017-2018 Membership:

Raven Chakerian, Chair '18	World Languages & Cultures
Vipin Arora '18	College of Business
Cheridy Aduviri '19	College of Education
Nancy Allen '19	Fisheries & Wildlife
Marita Barth '20	Chemistry
Stephen Redfield '20	Electrical Engineering & Computer Science

Student members:

Amanda Kirk (Graduate Student) College of Education – Counseling
Wes Prebeck II (Undergrad Student) Fisheries & Wildlife

Ex-officio members:

Walt Loveland	Budgets & Fiscal Planning Committee
Cub Kahn	Center for Teaching and Learning
Tom Miller	Curriculum Council
Karen Watte	Extended Campus
Lisa Ganio	Graduate Council
Stefanie Buck	University Libraries
<i>Jeff Sherman</i>	<i>Executive Committee Liaison</i>

Introduction and Overview – Having all six faculty members from the 2016-2017 Online Education Committee back for another year of service allowed for excellent continuity. Several projects that began in 2015 were carried to completion this year. Committee members were divided into four subcommittees to work on four distinct projects. This model worked well for our group and lent itself to productive, efficient work sessions and easy communication.

Membership and Participation – Active participation among the six faculty members, ex-officio members from Extended Campus, Center for Teaching & Learning and University Libraries assured productivity and a variety of perspectives. In addition, the graduate and undergraduate student participants attended meetings, as their schedules permitted, providing a student voice and perspective. Committee-wide meetings were held monthly or bi-monthly for 1.5 hours each. In addition, four subcommittees met monthly or bimonthly. Committee Meetings: October 17, 2017; November 27, 2017; January 23, 2018; March 2, 2018; April 24, 2018; and June 5, 2018. Additionally, the Promotion and Tenure Subcommittee, Survey Subcommittee, Peer Observation Subcommittee and Awards and Recognitions Subcommittee met multiple times throughout the year with reporting at each Online Education Committee-wide meeting.

Survey – The Survey Subcommittee met multiple times in the fall to edit and revise a survey that was begun by the Committee in 2015. The survey was designed to gather information about online education at OSU that could help guide the Committee's work in the coming years. The survey was distributed to all faculty with a teaching assignment on

January 22, 2018. A [full report](#) with an executive summary, action plan with recommendations and a summary of responses was compiled and presented to the Faculty Senate Executive Committee on May 10. The Executive Committee approved the survey for distribution. *Objectives for next year's committee include looking into the possibility of a deeper analysis of the results and exploring options for distributing the survey results to the wider campus community.*

Promotion and Tenure – The Promotion and Tenure sub-committee met multiple times throughout the year to continue the work that was started in 2016 regarding promotion and tenure-related challenges specific to online faculty. The subcommittee completed a draft of a set of P&T guidelines that address issues specific to online faculty. *Next year, the Committee intends to finish this resource and make it available university wide. The Committee should consult with the Faculty Senate Promotion and Tenure Committee as it may be that they are working on a similar initiative and could partner with the Online Education Committee.*

Online Peer Reviews – In the 2015-2016 academic year, the Committee began discussing the question of online course observations and how and if they are being done at OSU. These discussions continued into 2016-2017, resulting in the Committee creating several questions in the faculty survey designed to help determine this. The results from the survey this year confirmed that online and hybrid courses are less often observed as part of a formal peer-review process. The Online Peer Review Subcommittee met many times throughout 2017-2018 in order to create two tools to help facilitate more frequent and thorough reviews of online and hybrid courses as OSU: [Peer Observation Form for Online Teaching](#) and [Peer Observation Form for Hybrid Teaching](#).

Awards and Recognition Online – The Awards and Recognition Subcommittee met multiple times throughout the year with the intention of exploring ways to increase opportunities for awards and recognition of Ecampus excellence for both students and faculty. The committee first explored existing awards and scholarships across campus and looked at how they may not be inclusive of Ecampus faculty and students. After establishing that there was indeed an opportunity gap, the subcommittee created the [Ecampus Inclusion Document](#) designed to guide programs in assuring that their online students and faculty had equal opportunities as on-campus students and faculty. They also were successful in promoting the creation of awards specifically for Ecampus faculty in several programs (Electrical Engineering, Computer Science and School of Language, Culture & Society) and are working with still other programs to do the same. *Next year, the Committee should look for ways to further distribute the Ecampus Inclusion Document.*

Potential Committee Merge – At the start of the 2017-18 academic year, Faculty Senate President Bob Mason, asked the Committee to discuss a proposed merger of four committees: 1) Online Education Committee, 2) Computing Resources Committee, 3) Advancement of Teaching Committee and 4) Library Committee. The Committee was asked to discuss the pros and cons of this potential merger. A summary of the discussion that took place during the October 17 Committee meeting regarding this topic follows:

- One Committee member felt that the Computing Resources Committee, Advancement of Teaching Committee and Online Education Committee seemed to fit under the umbrella of 'Teaching Resources,' but thought the Library Committee didn't fit.
- The former chair of the Advancement of Teaching Committee was present and felt it was a committee with an already large charge, and that it would be difficult to carry out the objectives of that Committee if even more duties were added to it.

- It was discussed that a merger could potentially create a committee with too many members and too wide of a focus, which would limit productivity.
- It was discussed that the Online Education Committee has been able to achieve productivity and focus because there is one specific scope: online/hybrid education.
- It was discussed that improved representation of online teaching faculty on all Faculty Senate committees is needed, especially those that have specific issues related to the online community (the example of the Promotion & Tenure Committee was given).
- Online Education Committee members were invited to follow up with the Committee chair via email with further thoughts regarding this topic (no further comments were received by the chair).

Online Education Committee Goals for 2018-2019 (as established at the final meeting of 2017-2018):

- Begin year with a review of the survey results, as these were intended to guide the work of the Committee.
- Further explore distribution of survey results.
- Seek ways to improve clarity on the issues of intellectual property and transparency of Ecampus revenue models (as per faculty-identified issues of importance on the survey).
- Explore how to increase support for hybrid course development: Can Academic Technology help?; Invite David Goodrum to a Committee meeting to discuss Academic Technology's role at OSU; Makers Lab in Kidder Hall as resource?
- Continue Promotion & Tenure Guidelines project and work with the Faculty Senate Promotion & Tenure Committee.
- Create subcommittees for projects as needed.