

PPC meeting February 2, 2022

Attending: Laura Atchley, Meg Cotter-Lynch (chair), Steve Csaki, William Fridley, Ashley Hampton, Chaehyun Lee, Doug Wood,

Absent: Matthew Sparacio

Meeting called to order at 4:03pm, adjourned at 4:53pm.

- I. The committee discussed a pre-circulated draft of a proposal from the Distance Education Council (DEC) regarding amending the APPM to include a statement about the development and implementation of an online course template.
 - a. Several faculty members expressed support for the utility of a standardized LMS template to facilitate navigation by students as they take multiple courses. Members also discussed the importance of maintaining faculty control over pedagogical practices in their own courses, and that a template should not intrude upon how an instructor wants to teach. Several committee members gave examples from their own experiences teaching and having online courses reviewed by CIDT.
 - b. Dr. Atchley and Dr. Csaki questioned whether adopting this amendment to APPM would make template use mandatory, as the APPM functions as our de facto employment contract. Dr. Fridley pointed out the importance of distinguishing between recommendations versus requirements, and several faculty expressed discomfort with requirements that have the potential to encroach upon academic freedom.
 - c. Dr. Cotter-Lynch said that if we are to have a template, it is important that it be developed and controlled by a faculty committee, as proposed by DEC.
 - d. Dr. Fridley suggested that should a such a statement be added to APPM, the appropriate place would be 6.7.4. The other members concurred.
 - e. Considerable discussion followed about which courses, in particular, would be expected to use this template, given the varying pedagogical requirements of online asynchronous, online synchronous, hybrid, and face to face courses, as well as the differences between 7 and 16 week courses. The committee generally agreed that a template that attempted to address all delivery possibilities would need to be so flexible and capacious that it would nullify the benefits of standardization. We therefore agreed that the language of APPM should specify that the template would only apply to fully online, asynchronous courses.
 - f. Dr. Atchley suggested revising the statement to explicitly allow faculty to make modifications to the template as pedagogically warranted.

- g. Dr. Wood emphasized the importance of regular feedback on and revision of the standardized template.
 - h. The committee as a whole verbally agreed that Dr. Cotter-Lynch would prepare a revised version of the proposed APPM language, and submit it to the committee for an email vote.
- II. The statement as revised was approved by the committee via email vote on February 3, 2022.