

Distance Education Council Minutes February 25, 2019

Attendees:

- I. Call or Order - The meeting was called to order by the chair, Christala Smith, at 1:34pm.
- II. Quorum was established at 1:34pm.
- III. Minutes were approved with corrections. Ten voted yes and 4 abstained.
- IV. Ally Co-pilot: Kate Shannon explained the Ally tool and that she is doing a pilot study funded by the Academic Partnerships grant. Right now she has 7 participants who have had some training so far. These participants have had access to the tool early (it has been added to their online course) to provide feedback. She explained the it helps with accessibility of web content for students. She is doing focus groups, meetings, has established a Bb course with Ally resources, has been sending reminders and other tools to these participants.
There was other discussion about training on this tool for other faculty, when/if it would be turned on in all courses, and the personalization of instruction with this tool.
- V. Drop in training: Christala Smith discussed the upcoming drop in training on May 1. This training will be partnering with SOLD. The itinerary was discussed as well as the possibility of a Bb course that would be created after the training to provide information and a certificate for those that were unable to attend.
- VI. Dr. Tim Boatman discussed the clarification on policy for Spring Break and wording for the policy: As a reminder, there will be no support for Blackboard or Help Desk between 12:00 am March 18th and 8:00 am, March 25th. This will not impact the weeks of instruction in 7-week courses because the second 7-week term begins March 11th and ends May 5th (8 weeks). To accommodate the Monday – Sunday schedule used by many compressed-format courses, please note that support will be available on March 16th and 17th at the end of the first week of Spring II. Consistent with the University's observance of Spring Break, the expectation is that no assignment will be due during the break for any class modality (e.g., onsite, online, SIDE, hybrid). While Blackboard will be accessible if students or faculty want to work on material, such work should not be required. If you have any questions feel free to contact your Distance Education Council Representative, CIDT, Help Desk, or the Office of Academic Affairs.
- VII. Courseware Options was cancelled because Aaron Dean was ill and did not make it to the meeting
- VIII. The meeting adjourned at 2:33