

Report of the SIDE Subcommittee of the Distance Education Council Tuesday, October 23, 2018, and post-meeting follow-up

At the invitation of Christala Smith (Director, CIDT), the SIDE subcommittee of the Distance Education Council was invited to view plans for expenditures on IETV/SIDE upgrades and to provide feedback.

Members of the SIDE subcommittee (William Fridley, Kate Shannon, Christala Smith, Laura Atchley [via Zoom]) and guests (Alisha Ridenour, Jerry Knight, Richard Crow [via Zoom]) met on Tuesday, October 23, at 2:00pm.

The gist of the discussion was that funds were available for upgrading two classrooms as SIDE rooms. Richard Crowe shared some of the features of an IETV/SIDE room at the McCurtain County Campus that will be serving as a model for the room conversions. Russell 315 is slated as the first room for upgrades, and a second room (perhaps in Morrison) is to be determined. Smith noted that a conversion for R 100 is cost prohibitive at this time and that upgrading two smaller rooms will provide a template for R 100 when (and if) it is converted.

Post-meeting follow-up

Fridley volunteered to survey rooms in Morrison for their SIDE-conversion potential. A request for input on possible rooms was also solicited at the EIL Department meeting on October 29. M 222 was suggested as a possibility, and it was noted that would require shifting the room and equipment from its current "wide" configuration (east/west) to a "long" configuration (north/south). M 224 is also a possibility, and it currently has a "long" configuration. The SIDE Committee will try to arrange a discussion and choice of room in Morrison.

On Tuesday, October 30, Fridley taught his EDUC 2013 class from McAlester, and noted some appealing features of their setup: a single monitor hung from the ceiling midway in the room (vs. two monitors at the back of the room, closer to the instructor), the Instructor camera is also mounted from the ceiling near this monitor, a whiteboard with a "close and attached" projector (like the one on the third floor [A 307?] of the Administration Building in Durant), and a single "desktop" microphone that is easily movable and can be used for students and/or instructor (a ceiling-hung microphone is also available). Perhaps these are features of the McCurtain County room template. I found the setup in McAlester to be comfortable, attractive, and highly functional.

Photos from the McAlester Room

