

**Districtwide Distance Education Steering Committee (DDESC)**

**Meeting Notes**

**Monday, December 3, 2018**

**12:00 – 1:30 p.m.**

**Virtual via Zoom**

Attendees: Elizabeth Barrington, Maureen Curry, Dave Giberson, Aileen Gum, Kats Gustafson, Mary Kingsley, Jeff Mills, Rechelle Mojica, Katie Palacios, Sandra Pesce, Chis Rodgers, Angela Romero, Trenton Tidwell, and Claudia Tornsaufer

Meeting Notes

The group reviewed the meeting notes from the last meeting. DDESC will be posting the meeting notes for accreditation purposes on the website once the website becomes more developed.

Distance Ed Plan

The Distance Education plan was sent to DDESC members and did not receive too many responses. The document is a two-year plan for the District’s distance education section. This year the main objective is to work on closing the student success rate to more closely match the oncampus success rate. Also, the plan hopes to include a design for an external review process to insure quality in online classes. This plan sets out to have DDESC suggest a plan using the OEI Rubric. Currently, if you want to have your course considered for the OEI Exchange you must submit your course to them and they review the course using the rubric. They have suggested that they want to change and leave it up to local campuses to make sure courses are ADA compliant. There is also concern that after a course is reviewed, the instructor may change something in it and make it non-compliant. DDESC needs to come up with a recommendation for the process to review courses. We already have the OEI rubric for district use. Kats reported that other colleges have solicited volunteers to review the courses in a peer-to-peer review process. They are using just the rubric, and not reviewing how a teacher teaches or whether or not an instructor is a good instructor. Kats is considering inviting the academic senate presidents attend DDESC in the near future. Aileen shared that Senate Presidents would never approve a review process without the academic body input. It was discussed that the Academic Presidents should receive the rubric so they can see that it’s not an evaluation. The state wide academic senate last week voted to adopt the resolution to adopt the OEI statewide. Elizabeth suggested not using the term ‘evaluation’ during any of the communications, simply use ‘rubric reviewers.’ Katie said other schools are calling it Peer Online Course Review.

Kats plans to send the Distance Education plan to the presidents prior to the next DDESC meeting and see if it is something they can bring to their senates for adoption. After agreement on the plan, it will be forwarded to the Chancellor’s Cabinet. The Distance Education Plan will be sent out a third time after this meeting. The group was asked to review the plan and respond.

VPAT

There has not been a process set for the review of VPATs. Elizabeth reminded the group that instructors would need notification of the process. District DSPS have said when vendors provide us with the VPAT, our DSPS will work with the vendors/students to find out how to make them accessible. It was suggested that McGraw-Hill was not in compliance. The group discussed how MyOpenLab is a comparable open source and accessible resource alternative to MyMathLab.

Voluntary Product Accessibility Template = VPAT. We are going to request that publishers send the VPATs to the bookstores. For example, if an instructor wants to adopt Pierson content, Pierson would have to fill out the form and send VPAT to bookstore and DSPS. The bookstore will be taking care of this. It is an opportune time to review the publishers’ websites for compliance since the LTIs will have to be installed in Canvas. District DSPS said when vendors provide us with the VPATs, our DSPS will work with the vendors/students to find out how to make them accessible. Vendors are aware of the process because colleges like Southwestern are requiring compliance.

Through the CIOs listserv, we received an email from Laura Hope of the Chancellor’s Office that announced Pierson’s pricing package. SDICCCA was astounded to receive an endorsement of an inaccessible package; Pierson lowered the cost to $46/per user. Katie shared that publishers are getting very creative to compete with OER. There is an accessibility checker in Canvas but at present the Canvas version is not that great. Blackboard Ally is a viable product which tells you what is not accessible and how to change it to become accessible. If DDESC thinks we should investigate Ally, let Kats know. Approximate cost of Blackboard Ally is $53k a year. (That pricing was without negotiation.) Other campuses have been using Ally and they have been providing good feedback. Rechelle said that is seemed a small price to have all instructors have the capability of checking their own accessibility.

SDICCCA is writing a joint letter to Laura Hope saying the endorsement of Pierson’s package goes against all accessibility standards and it does not meet 508 compliance standards. Also, using Pierson goes against OER standards. SDICCCA is sending a letter stating that Pierson is not acceptable to the membership and that it is unfortunate that the State Chancellor’s office not pay attention to this important issue.

Katie suggested forming an agreement of what the district would do if a course is not aligned with the rubric. She would like to have that explained before starting. It would be best to have an agreed action in advance of what and how we recommend these courses comply. Kats shared that @One has a course called POCR (Peer Online Course Review) that uses the rubric online class review; you can take that course and become reviewers. Kats will send out the link to the group. Kats shared that the district really needs the academic senate to buy-in and she will be sending them the link.

Announcement

Katie announced that she is teaching 10-10-10. Kats asked Katie to send out an email regarding those workshops. Katie will also send out the course list for @One from <https://onlinenetworkofeducators.org/course-cards/>

Next Meeting: **Monday, February 4, 2018, noon - 1:30 p.m.**

*Respectfully submitted: Mary Kingsley*