ANTELOPE VALLEY COLLEGE
DISTANCE EDUCATION COMMITTEE AGENDA
May 12, 2009
3:30 p.m. – Room BE 248

To conform to the open meeting act, the public may attend open sessions

1) CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

2) COMMENTS FROM THE COMMITTEE CO-CHAIRS

3) OPENING COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

4) APPROVAL OF MINUTES
   a) Distance Education Committee meeting – April 27, 2009

5) ACTION ITEMS
   a) None

6) DISCUSSION ITEMS
   a) CMS Evaluation - Beyer
   b) Portal and Email Services - Moise
   c) Faculty Support Center – O'Neil

7) REPORTS
   a) CMS Evaluation Workgroup
   b) Podcasting workgroup
   c) Orientation workgroup
   d) Accessibility workgroup

8) OTHER

9) ADJOURNMENT

ANTELOPE VALLEY COLLEGE
DISTANCE EDUCATION COMMITTEE MEETING
May 12, 2009

MEMBERS PRESENT		MEMBERS ABSENT	GUESTS
Rick Balogh	Kim Whitaker for Ms. Thatch	Dr. Mark McGovern (proxy for Dr. Ezzeddine)	Greg Krynen
Dr. Nancy Bednar		Tom Hutchinson	Stephen Burns
John Vento		Beverly Beyer	Ken Sawicki
Dr. Ed Beyer		Dr. Tom O'Neil	
Bonnie Curry		Dr. Forte-Parnell	
Luis Echeverria			
Connie Moise			
Mike Wilmes			

1. **CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL**
   Dr. Ed Beyer, Distance Education Committee Co-Chair, called the meeting to order at 3:43 p.m.

2. **COMMENTS FROM THE COMMITTEE CO-CHAIRS**
   - Dr. Forte-Parnell, Committee Co-Chair, was unable to attend the meeting but she forwarded to Dr. Beyer the following: she has been in touch with Lesley Buehler at the Systems Office to develop the annual conference calendar that she addressed to the committee at the last meeting. We will not only get input from our own DEC Committee but from all members of the CCC DE Committee of interest. Also, the Academic Deans gave the green light to the development of a faculty training center. They all thought it was an excellent idea. There had been history in that it had been promoted in years past and was originally to be placed in BE132.

3. **OPEN COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC**
   - None

4. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**
   A motion was made (Mike Wilmes) and seconded (Rick Balogh) to approve the April 27, 2009 Distance Education Committee meeting minutes. Corrections received from Ms.Moise and Dr. Beyer were incorporated into the minutes. Also, Mr. Wilmes (Mike) requested that once his proper name is used once, any further correspondence can be attributed to his first name. In Section 6 (d) – Ken was not even able to read the accessibility statement on Blackboard (change will be made on minutes). With no further discussion, the minutes were approved and motion carried.

5. **ACTION ITEMS**

- None

6. **DISCUSSION**
   a. **CMS Evaluation (Beyer) – D**r. Beyer has relayed to all members that all six videos have been placed online for viewing. Comments were requested. It was stated that Angel has been bought out by Blackboard. When Rick questioned the rep from Blackboard in regard to the help desk issue and the problems with it, he had two weeks to come up with solutions but upon arrival to give his presentation, he had no information and apparently gave it no priority as had been requested of him. One of the reasons given by Blackboard for purchasing Angel is its customer relations but this was quite missing in their presentation when they had been asked two weeks in advance to address these issues and, in fact, did not. Dr. Bednar made comment as did Dr. Beyer that the purchase of Angel had been completed but Dr. Bednar felt that maybe the Attorney General could still look into the matter. Now word comes that Blackboard is suing Desire2Learn. It seemed strange that none of this information came forth at the presentation and maybe with them knowing that Blackboard will be coming out with version 9, that all problems will be resolved. Dr. Beyer recommends that members check out the BB Version 9 on campus and see all the changes that have been made. Dr. Beyer also gave these opinions of the vendors who came: RSmart – not even close; Etudes has some strong interaction stuff but when questioned on transitioning from Blackboard, they would have to get some of their programmers which could take several months. Even though these programs would not need licenses, we would probably have to have someone on staff in order to work out the issues. Dr. Beyer was impressed with ECollege until the last two items: faculty cannot copy their own courses from semester to semester (they would have to do it for us) and then there was some question about the workload of the on-campus administrator. This person would be the only one to create and solve all issues and that person would just be overwhelmed. So that leaves us back to Angel, Blackboard and Desire2Learn. Even though Angel is being purchased by Blackboard, they will operate as separate parallel entities until sometime in the future when they merge. We have just seen the merging of Blackboard 9 and WebCT and previous to this, they had been parallel entities. If we went with Angel (and we may not even be able to get a quote from them), we would eventually end up back at Blackboard in the future. So in his final decision, that would put Bangel (Angel combined with BB) against Desire2Learn. One of the questions about BB was space but this could be an issue brought up in the quote. It has been determined earlier in the semester that the contract for whatever platform we decide to go with will evolve into ITS. Dr. Beyer recommends that we get a quote from each – Angel, BB and Desire2Learn. Dr. Bednar did make a point in that whatever one we choose, it should be a very easy program so that any faculty member can learn it without help. But Ms. Moise does bring up the issue that if you go with Angel or Desire2Learn, you will be charged in the contract for an enrollment data integration fee. This fee is already in place with BB ($12K and many development hours). You would have to include this aspect into each negotiation with Angel or Desire2Learn. Connie's contract experience would come into play as she would deal with each choice. She will have something for us at the next meeting. Being the next meeting is our last, Dr. Beyer feels that CMS should be our only discussion item in order to make a final decision. Finally, the issue of maintenance of BB came up. Mike Wilmes is not exclusively our BB Administrator so something needs to be done to place someone in that position and that is all they do. This position would be a very valid point in regard to accreditation but

putting it into actuality may be very difficult. Another point is that the response to the STRATA Report has been forwarded to the Senate. DEC Committee recommended that it should be a participatory governance committee, not a standing committee of the Senate. The Senate voted 11 to 4 with 8 abstentions to keep it as a standing committee of the Senate. One thing that did come out of the report is that the Senate is recommending that the DEC Committee be given budgetary control of academic computing issues across the campus. Dr. Beyer thanked all who showed at each of the vendor demonstrations.

b. **Portal and Email Service (Moise) –** Ms. Moise passed out to members a paper with discussion points on Luminis vs CampusEAI Grant. Connie has highlighted her notes in regard to each. The information on Luminis is very comprehensive as it is the product we are now using and planning to upgrade in late June. She is also putting in for a grant for the Campus EAI but even if we were awarded this grant, it does not mean we would have to utilize it. Being that Campus EAI is open source, whether it is remote or local, it would require ITS re-tooling and conversion challenges and does require an AVC commitment to a consortium and content management. It is very easy to change out from one platform to another, including ease of management of the service and a broad array of tools that could be procured. If we stay with Luminis, in several years we will be faced with the problem of having no email or calendar support after 4.2. At that point, we would have to upgrade to some form of tool set that would work sufficiently for our students and staff. Connie is pursuing each one but does not have yet a definite idea of which way ITS will go. They still plan to do the Luminis upgrade at the end of June. Connie requests that members go online to learn more about Campus EAI to see if they feel it would be a better choice, particularly in regard to distance education and online learning tools. Forty two percent of the Campus EAI consortium members are Banner schools. But give her your opinions on Luminis, too. At the present time, we are doing the upgrade in order to take advantage of the Banner channels in Luminis (CAL B) which will come online in October. This program is a base line version especially for community colleges. We want to be ready once this comes online. The final comment is that if we stayed with Luminis and with several years passing, there would be large possibility that new technology would come along that would be much better than what we are looking at today.

 c. **Facility Support Center (Moise) –** refer to comments made by co-chair Dr. Parnell above. Also, Dr. Beyer felt that we should have Greg research what types of software/hardware we should need and how he would envision the Support Center to look like and function as.

7. **REPORTS** –
   a. CMS Evaluation Workgroup – reported above
   b. Podcasting Workgroup - Kim Whitaker stated that Ms. Thatch will give a report at the next meeting. As far as the iTUNES contract, it has been submitted and will take two weeks to review and then they will get back to us. Deb Wallace will sign the contract and Connie Moise will oversee the contract but keep IMC in the loop. Connie requested that copies of all paperwork be forwarded to her.
   c. Orientation Workgroup – Nothing at this time.
   d. Accessibility Workgroup – Rick Balogh and Ken Sawicki have been looking at course management systems to see which ones are most accessible. He questions the DEC group whether each instructor's course is to be accessible and not even consider the course management system or

whether we should focus on the course management system that we don't have for sure yet. He states that course accessibility means being able to get to the course materials. Dr. Beyer made mention that you would need to identify the accessible shortcomings of the platform and identify workarounds for those. Or can we identify workarounds for those? That would be more important for faculty developed courses because if they do not have experience, they would not get real in depth into a lot of the material that is in there and then they would depend on Greg to steer them toward the accessible part. In Ed's opinion, we should concentrate on the platform first. Dr. Bednar questioned about the accessibility of Angel, Blackboard 9 and Desire2Learn. Dr. Beyer stated that he had been a recipient on an e-mail to Rick from Matt of Blackboard. This e-mail states that anyone can go online and do a 30 day trial run on Blackboard 9 so this would give you actual practice in regards to accessibility. Rick will send to Ken all of his practice sessions in each platform and give him a task to perform. Ken will then evaluate each one to see if there are even any slight deviations that may be a cause for concern.

8. **OTHER**
   - The next meeting will be May 26.

9. **ADJOURNMENT**
   A motion was made and seconded to adjourn the Distance Education Committee meeting at 4:31 p.m. Motion carried.

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