

MEETING NOTES
NSHE E-Learning Task Force
Thursday, September 26, 2013

Attendees: Erika Beck, Carrie Bruno, Kevin Carman, Cynthia Clark, Paul Davis, Darren Divine, Mark Fink, Lisa Frazier, Christian Fritsen, Kendall Hartley, Chancellor Dan Klaich, Richard Kloes, Fred Lokken, Terry Norris, Alex Porter, Jeffrey Wong, Robert Wynegar

Guests: Steve Zink, Crystal Abba, Renee Davis

1. Welcome and Introductions

Task Force members introduced themselves and described the role they hold at their institutions.

2. Chancellor's Introductory Remarks

Chancellor Dan Klaich set the context for the task force's charge within NSHE's mission and more specifically within the Board of Regents' strategic directions.

- The chancellor is serious about extracting the best from the group. Will help guide the effort occasionally but will rely on the Task Force for the expertise necessary to meet the charge of the task force in a timely fashion.
- Board of Regents has given clear direction they think things are changing and want NSHE institutions to work in student-centered manner to provide quality student learning experiences. Goal is to provide quality options just like face-to-face instruction. The chancellor intends to deliver with the help and guidance of the Task Forces. He tried to help by narrowing the charge to the group.
- Thanked Mark Fink for assuming leadership role.

3. Review of Committee Charge and Preparatory Materials

Task Force Co-Chair Mark Fink reviewed the charge to the committee and preparatory documents that preceded the formation of the task force, including the 2012-13 NSHE E-Learning Report and the NSHE Consolidated E-Learning Inventory.

- Phase I and II of the chancellor's charge relate back to specific pages of the Katz report; Mark will share the schematic with the Task Force.
- Believes it is possible to retain the uniqueness of each institution and their missions. Quality Measures may include universal learning outcomes that should be considered. Students have to win.
- Katz report didn't deal with funding options. Business plan will need to figure out a revenue model, but the new funding formula generally helps e-learning in the state. Board of Regents is willing to allocate funds for implementation, but the Task Force needs to make the case.

- Phase I is the chancellor's first priority, because it builds upon great work by the Remedial Transformation Task Force last year and it can be implemented fairly quickly with the right funding plan. There may also be vendors that can help, with input from the Task Force.
- Task Force members talked about different methods that are working on their campuses. The chancellor cautioned to stay focused on some commonality so that students aren't place-bound. He wants to be certain that options don't have unintended consequences wherever students are in NSHE. It may be possible to blend various approaches.
- A fundamental question is whether the focus is on developing online courses or remediating deficiencies. What are we remediating them for – is it critical thinking or an operational focus? Are we trying to move to more narrow diagnostics? Lisa Frazier noted the Frank Daniels' study of Nevada students moving from remedial math courses to success in college level math. He found the surgical approach was very successful: to identify deficiencies, then begin remediation at that level.
- Mark Fink asked about proceeding with remedial English. There are not many products in this area; most institutions appear to be adopting a modular focus. Here, the questions are on writing vs. grammar. It can be easy to focus only on grammar, but writing and draftsmanship need to be addressed.

ACTION – Provide NSHE Remedial Transformation Project report to the task force.

ACTION – Next meeting: Invite faculty members that led the Remedial Transformation Project to discuss their findings and best teaching practices. Then decide on how to incorporate into the Task Force's charge, if at all. Give Task Force time to re-look at changes that may have been made since the Remedial report was issued and bring a representative from each campus to the meeting.

ACTION – Task force members were asked to send input and suggestions to Mark Fink or Nancy Flagg about what's happening in the third-party market, both recommended and not recommended as well as external or in-house.

4. Timeline for Deliverables

The task force broadly discussed the timeline for meeting the objectives and deliverables laid out in its charge. Key deadlines include:

- Interim (verbal) report about the task force's work at March 2014 BOR meeting (agenda deadline Feb. 4)
- Phase I (Remediation/Skills Modules) report to Chancellor by June 2014 including business model, program plan with student support mechanisms, and budget
- Phase II (E-Ncore Gen Ed) – conducted either simultaneously with Phase I or subsequent to Phase I – including business model, program plan, budget, and phased implementation plan by December 2014

- Final report to Chancellor by December 2014

ACTION –Mark Fink and staff will develop a timeline schematic for review by the Task Force.

5. Subcommittees and Collaborative Partnerships

The task force discussed the desirability of using a subcommittee structure to meet its objectives and deliverables, as well as the potential for engaging third-party partners.

- Mark Fink asked if the group was open to forming subcommittees. Some parts of Phase I and II can be addressed simultaneously but not others.
- Group felt it may be premature to form subcommittees until there is a better understanding and overview of existing systems and remediation efforts in order to create solutions that are a real win for all campuses. It would also be helpful to have a better understanding of who this initiative is intended to address and what the gap is that this Task Force is trying to bridge in Phase I. What are the challenges for students requiring remediation?
- Phase II will be more difficult than Phase I and may require external assistance. The task force will need to decide what to grapple with internally and what to outsource.

ACTION: Task Force members were asked to send suggestions to Mark Fink or Nancy Flagg about pieces of the task force charge that can be outsourced or handled internally.

6. Meeting Calendar

The task force discussed a schedule for future meetings.

- Meetings will be held monthly via SCS videoconference or Collaborate.
- Some face-to-face meetings may be possible, especially if scheduled around Board of Regents meetings.
- Mark Fink will visit all the campuses.
- The October meeting will be held October 31, 2013, at 1:30 p.m. via SCS sites

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