"Learn where you live"

A Distributed Learning Strategy for the UofS

Senate

October 19, 2013

What is distributed learning?

- Umbrella term

  - Activities of all sorts – distance or "off-campus", traditional classroom-based and virtual

- Instructional model*

  - Instructors, students, content can be located in different, non-centralized locations

  - Instruction and learning can be independent of time and place

* Saltzberg & Polyson, 1995

Our goals for distributed learning...

- Continue to expand the presence + impact of the UofS throughout the province and beyond

- Deliver consistently high quality education using most appropriate DL approaches

- Achieve a student body reflecting the diversity of the people of Saskatchewan

Using this strategy we will…

- Focus on degree-credit learning

- Ensure that student learning needs are recognized as developmental (e.g., "dependent" stage)

- Create a financially sustainable initiative

What are the implementation steps?

(1) Create full undergraduate degree program options for direct entry programs (*Priority #1*)

- At least one complete program in each of the main UG areas of learning

  - Humanities & Fine Arts, Social Science, Science, Business, Health Sciences
  - ✓ Nursing
  - ✓ Education

(1) Full degree program options (UG)

- Delineate all activity at the UG level
  - UofS and surrounding institutions
- Assessment of market demand and consultation with external partners
- Identify gaps – what needs to be developed?
- Identify champions for programs
- Implement/Evaluate

(2) Pathways to complete requirements for non-direct entry (*Priority #2*)

- Delineate what is already possible

- Use analysis and consultation to identify non-direct entry (professional programs) in high demand

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(3) Student access to core level of support and service

- Delineate what needs to be on the list of core support and service
- Explore how these services can be delivered (and by whom)

(4) Faculty interest and capacity

- Articulate best practices for faculty in distributed learning
  - Provide instructional design support
- Create a financial model that incents UofS colleges to participate

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(5) Partnerships and Infrastructure

- Selecting programs – strategic and valued
- Necessary technical infrastructure and supports
  - Regional Colleges, First Nations
- Improve stability and bandwidth (networks)
- Identify capital needs

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(6) Professional post-graduate programs

- On-line or blended (face-to-face + on-line)

- Start from current practice and build following analysis and consultation (*Innovative*)

- Examples:
  - ✓ Education (several areas)
  - ✓ Nursing
  - ✓ Northern Governance and Development
  - ✓ International Trade

Who will lead implementation?

- Distributed Learning Governance Committee
  - Coordinate activity and provide advice
  - Chaired by the VPTL
    - Faculty members (DL-active colleges)
    - Support Units

Questions?

For more information contact

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