

## **F16-S17 AY Annual Report of the Faculty Senate Online Committee**

**Members:** Shane Landrum, International and Public Affairs; Ana Luszczynska, Arts, Sciences & Education; Hesham Ali, Engineering and Computing; Eduardo Gamarra, International and Public Affairs; C Delano Gray, Business Administration. Ex-Officio: Matt Hagood representing the CIO; Matthew Acevedo representing FIU Online.

**Officers:** Chair: Joseph Cilli, Hospitality Management; Secretary Peter Clarke, Computing and Information Sciences. Both were elected in the Sept./Nov. 2016 meetings.

Meetings were held monthly from September 2016 to April 2017 with the exception of January/February 2017, when there were no agenda items.

Discussion items over the year:

- 1. Course Quality:** In support of 2025 Strategic Plan for Online Education
  - To identify problem areas and issues.
  - Create a collection of exemplary courses used for quality standards and available to faculty for review.
  - Recommend university-wide course development rubric and assessment.
  - Define online course design incentive - FIU Online exemplary course award/medallion.
  
- 2. Course Accessibility:** In support of 2025 Strategic Plan for Online Education
  - Hybrid course support: Recommend increase funding for hybrid training in an effort to increase hybrid offerings.
  - Compliance: As with a course design rubric, develop minimum standards for accessibility of online course materials.
  
- 3. University Community:** Recommend that all non-classroom university speaking events be recorded for asynchronous access by online students. In addition, and related, the development of a video repository of events for faculty/student use. The committee met with Matthew Hagood and staff to discuss current recording policies/procedures and the financial considerations of recording all events.
  
- 4. Online Course Evaluation:** Recommend that all online courses be evaluated at the unit level by a resource person, who is a faculty member, and is in regular contact with FIU Online. This evaluation should occur at the end of each term to ensure online courses are well organized and presented in a similar fashion.
  
- 5. Clarification of Scheduling:** The future expansion plans of FIU, with respect to the number of students, will depend heavily on more online courses being offered (as stated by the Provost at the Faculty Senate meeting on 11/08/2016). The focus will be on converting existing face-to-face courses to online courses. The committee was reminded that the target for the university is having 30% face-to-face, 30% hybrid and 40% online by 2020. With respect to the effort required to convert a course to online, Joseph Riquelme stated that FIU Online provides resources to assist with the development of these courses. Of concern is the

appearance that some of the department chairs appear not to be too enthusiastic about encouraging faculty to teach online/hybrid courses. To that end, committee members were charged with communicating with faculty interested in online education.

6. Committee members reviewed the following materials:
  - “How to differentiate between high quality online courses and low quality online courses?”
  - Conquering the Content: A Step-by-Step Guide to Online Course Design
  - Pearson Publishing course development requirements documents