

MEMORIAL

Proposition No. 15-08/09R

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Concerning developing and delivering outstanding education opportunities using digital content at New Mexico State University.

Sponsors: Oliver (COB), Christman (EC), Erben (GRBCC), Huttlinger (HSS), Brown (A&S), and Cramer (ACES)

Submitted 19 February 2009

Suggested Committee: *****

Assigned Committee: *****

Background

As the demand for web courses grows, so does the need for support. New Mexico State University students and faculty have expressed a desire to improve the quality of both web-enhanced and 100% online web courses. To support the movement towards quality web courses, it is recommended that a new program, Support for Online Courses Program (SOCP) be developed for the NMSU Las Cruces campus. After applying and being accepted into the program, faculty would receive professional development in online teaching, online course development support, digital materials creation, and access to a nationally recognized peer review process called "Quality Matters." It is proposed SOCP be established through a partnership of Student Technology Fee funding and Institutional funding. In addition to support for better quality in web courses this program would seek to significantly reduce the cost incurred by students (and their parents) for traditional textbooks.

Goals of SOCP

1. Provide students with enhanced quality web courses (e.g. quality digital content, improved design, more skilled instructors), while reducing overall textbook costs.
2. Provide faculty more support for digital content development/acquisition, & instructional design.
3. Establish a systematic process for continuous improvement of online instructional methods and digital content. Also connect NMSU to national consortia for quality digital content.
4. Create and support a culture of online course quality at NMSU.

WHEREAS, a need exists for ongoing improvement of web-based courses and related digital materials by faculty (Ref: Proposition No. 13 -01/02);

WHEREAS, hands-on, pedagogically sound, faculty support services are needed to more systemically address improvement of web-based courses and related digital materials;

WHEREAS, new faculty support services are needed to address current and future gaps in services, and to address the increasing student desire for improved web-based courses and related digital materials;

WHEREAS, better support for web-based courses and related digital materials will not only enhance the learning experience for 100% distance learning students, it will benefit students in traditional courses supported with web-based resources, and students served by hybrid courses and programs (i.e. combination of traditional and distance learning);

WHEREAS, enhanced faculty support services could facilitate New Mexico State University's involvement in, and leveraging of, numerous national and regional consortia related to the sharing of web-based reusable learning objects (RLO), open courseware, and other peer-reviewed web-based resources;

WHEREAS, a potential exists for increased implementation of quality digital content may create a small financial offset for student and parents;

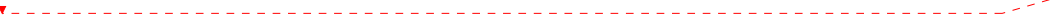
WHEREAS, students have expressed a formal interest in establishment of such a service, including approval to have this service become a formal Student Technology Fee Project contingent upon additional funding and annual approval of the Student Technology Advisory Committee (STAC) provided by the division of Student Success; and

WHEREAS, the division of Student Success has offered resources contingent upon availability of Student Technology Fee funds and annual approval of the Student Technology Advisory Committee (STAC), including web-based instructional design experts to oversee the service;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT, the Faculty Senate respectfully requests that the Administration of the University (e.g. Deans Council, Provost, President) support the following:

- the commitment made by the Faculty Advisory Committee on Technology (FACT) for the development and delivery of outstanding educational opportunities using digital content through the Support for Online Courses Program (SOCP);
- the annual approval made by the Student Technology Advisory Committee (STAC) to provide funding for the developing and delivery of outstanding educational opportunities using digital content through the Support for Online Courses Program;
- the commitment made by the Division for Student Success to provide funding for the developing and delivery of outstanding educational opportunities using digital content through the Support for Online Courses Program; and
- to continue funding other all aspects of instructional technology services at or above current levels.

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