Distance Education Department
Mid-Year Progress Report for Academic Year 2014-2015
March 2015

Mid-Year Progress

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To expand training opportunities for faculty, seek methods to enhance delivery of course materials and support student engagement and retention.

Building on the sectional plan initiative and the new Director of Distance Education's department action plans, in the first six months of the academic year, the department achieved the following:

·   Provided comprehensive training for faculty who needed more preparation for online teaching, with emphases on instructional technologies, media tools, and online learning pedagogies. Thirteen Moodle training sessions, two flex day sessions and four pedagogies webinars were offered to at least 70 faculty member registrants.

·   Launched a "Bi-monthly Tips and Resources" email to help a broader faculty body update their pedagogy and technology knowledge. The email has received positive feedback from faculty members.

·   Proactively collaborated with faculty, faculty chairs, committee members of PTEC and Professional Development, and staff on projects to support student retention, including developing a Student Moodle Orientation session, implementing prompt and effective communication processes with faculty and students, and standardizing online course themes. The projects launched in the spring 2015 semester, and measurable results are expected by the end of summer 2015.

Assist Faculty to develop faculty websites and improve the CC Online presence

Following the sectional plan initiative, the department has launched new website content that improves the usability and visibility of CC Online; website users can now more easily navigate through the online program information. While the initiative to develop faculty websites may be benefiting students and individual faculty members, no faculty members have yet expressed interest in developing their own websites.

To increase the number of faculty using media / video / audio in their online courses

During the first half of the 2014-15 academic year, the Distance Education Department developed 66 videos and supported more than 10 faculty and staff in their media production. In addition, DECT grant funding enabled the department to add closed captions for more than 1,823 minutes of videos in the fall 2014 semester. More importantly, after the department's effort to promote awareness of 508 regulations, ADA compliance, and copyright rules, faculty members have widely accepted addressing these issues as a necessary step in producing future media content.