Santa Monica College

Distance Education Committee
Minutes of March 13, 2014

Members: Sal Veas (chair), Julie Yarrish (vice chair), Jamie Cavanaugh, Dana DelGeorge, Wendi DeMorst, Peggy Kravitz, Mona Martin, Walter Meyer, Judith Remmes**, Saul Rubin, Odemaris Valdivia**

Interested parties: Fariba Bolandhemat*, Tim Cramer, Ellen Cutler*, Keith Graziadei*, Peggy Kline**, Laura Manson, Christine Miller*, Pete Morris, Wendy Parise, Jenny Resnick*, Marilyn Simons*
*Present   **Excused

Invited Guests: (Pearson/eCollege): Greg Eiselein – Manager, Learning studio; Jessica Hector – Strategic Account Manager; Colleen Quinn – Client Services Consultant

The Santa Monica College Distance Education Committee was called to order by Sal Veas at 11:15 a.m.

Approval of Minutes: The reading and approval of the minutes of the meeting of February 27, 2014 was tabled.

New Business:
❖ There was a brief introduction by all present.

❖ Greg Eiselein proceeded with a run-down, goals and status of Pearson/eCollege products currently in the "pipeline":
   ✓ eCollege has made some improvement on release times and is continuing to further speed up those times;
   ✓ They are continuing to make progress to move faster and be more responsive;
   ✓ There will be more focus and concentration on individual issues and products;
   ✓ Jessica Hector reported that the expanded Help Desk has improved since fall 2013;
   ✓ In general communications has been improved;
   ✓ They have, and will continue the way products are released;
   ✓ Large releases will include an "on – off" feature with a 60-day trial period before being turned on across the board;

❖ 2012/2013 Releases:
   ✓ Threaded discussion
   ✓ Accessibility
   ✓ Social Course Home – Performance Enhancements (moved further into beta – ok to use)
   ✓ Gradebook was upgraded;
   ✓ Rubrics notification
   ✓ Assessment/Grading items have been added in the last 12 months;
   ✓ An "adding content" item is currently in the works;
   ✓ Exam Visual editor for essay and short answer questions (available now)
   ✓ Grademark integration with Turn-It-In (available now)
   ✓ Mobile iPad (awaiting SMC to complete SSO integration component - requested 7/2013)
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❖ Anticipated for 2014 delivery:
   ✓ Display multi-take exam attempts;
   ✓ Threaded discussions: (sorting options, hide topic, post first, message counts) Avatars pending
      o A re-design with update look and feel. Tentatively anticipated to be released in two stages, June 2014 and November 2014;

- ✓ Audio/video in course, i.e. ability to capture short recordings. Anticipated release end of 2014 if 508 compliance issues can be addressed.
- ✓ Gradebook
  - o Convert numeric to letter grade
  - o Drop high and low grades
- ✓ Social course home page
- ✓ Mobile: iPhone (available now) Android forthcoming
- ✓ Exams: Display attempts, multi take exams
- ✓ Auto save in threads and gradebook

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 12:35 p.m.

Next Meeting: The next meeting of the Distance Education Committee will be in HSS 261 (Senate Conference Room) 11:15 A.M., Thursday, March 27.