

SENATE CONTINUING EDUCATION COMMITTEE
Annual Report to the University Senate
2006-2007

Committee Membership:

Virgil Benoit (Faculty, Languages)
Kari Chiasson (Faculty, Teaching & Learning)
Jacqueline Gray (Faculty, Center for Rural Health)
Kerry Kerber (Associate Dean, Outreach, Division of Continuing Education)
Janet Rex (Librarian, Chester Fritz Library)
Judy Rieke (Assistant Director/Librarian, Library of the Health Sciences)
Eligar Sadeh (Faculty, Space Studies)
Julie Zikmund (Faculty, Nursing, Nutrition & Dietetics)

Visiting during 12/5/06 meeting:

Victoria Beard (Associate Provost, Vice President for Academic Affairs)
Robert Boyd (Vice President Student and Outreach Services)

Purpose of the Committee: “To provide oversight of academic rigor for courses and programs offered at a distance, and to encourage faculty participation in distance education.” Eight responsibilities have been added:

1. Address as necessary faculty development, delivery methods, and other issues arising from implementing new educational technologies and serving nontraditional student populations.
2. Advise the Senate, the University and the Dean of Outreach Programs with regard to all programs of the Division for which academic credit is granted.
3. Be guided by the principle that questions of academic content and quality reside with the department offering the distance curriculum.
4. Maintain and keep current committee website.
5. To promote campus wide interest in and advocacy for continuing and distance education activities.
6. To assure that information about distance courses are accessible to faculty.
7. To disseminate to faculty information about various approaches and teaching techniques in distance education.
8. To develop and implement an annual plan to accomplish the purposes of the Senate Continuing Education Committee.

The Committee met four times: October 24, 2006, December 5, 2006, February 9, 2007, and April 23, 2007

Chair of Committee:

Janet Rex was elected on October 24, 2006 and served as Chair of the Committee.

Annual Plan: At the October 24, 2006 meeting, the committee put forward a tentative plan for the year. In addition to monitoring the ongoing responsibilities of the committee, the committee decided to compile a list of the UND departmental models of Distance Education, devise a questionnaire about the programs, and have a panel discussion of the

various models during the Spring semester. A top priority of the committee was to hire an Associate Vice President for Outreach Services & Dean of Outreach Programs.

Accomplishments:

1. The University Senate accepted as part of our 2005-2006 annual report the committee name change to the Senate Continuing Education Committee and a revised purpose and responsibilities of the committee (as listed above).
2. Departmental Models were compiled and disseminated to the members.
3. Various issues, such as assessment and recruitment, were discussed during meetings.
4. A box lunch panel discussion (with full attendance of 50 people) was offered on February 14, 2007, in partnership with Joan Hawthorne and the Office of Instructional Development (OID) to present various departmental models. The following individuals spoke on the panel: Thomasine Heitkamp (Social Work—from IVN to Breeze), Craig McLaughlin (Space Studies—HTMLeZ with Capstone coursework), Richard Schultz (Engineering—Blackboard Course Management System), Rick Van Eck (Teaching & Learning/Instructional Design & Technology—a full range of the above technologies), Julie Zikmund (Nutrition & Dietetics—Correspondence Studies, and Janet Rex (Chester Fritz Library—library, copyright and reserve issues).
5. As an offshoot accomplishment of the box lunch panel, a distance education users group formed in the School of Medicine & Health Sciences.
6. In place of a questionnaire, the committee chose to offer a Conversation with Merrifield on March 22, 2007, between Continuing Education staff and Merrifield faculty members. As part of the session, Jane Sims presented an overview of the creation of digital objects in distance education online courses.
7. Virgil Benoit and Janet Rex served on the search committee for the Associate Vice President for Outreach Services and Dean of Outreach Programs. In Spring 2007, Joshua Riedy accepted the offer to assume the position.

Respectfully submitted,

Janet Rex
Chair
Senate Continuing Education Committee