Mission of the Committee

This committee shall give advice on priorities, policies, and matters related to learning and teaching with technology, including distance education. Tasks include developing a vision for how technology can be used to enhance learning and teaching across disciplines, support efforts for the School of Education to be a learning laboratory for the efficacy of technology for learning and teaching, promote uses of technology to help build relationships with schools, and develop policies for distance education courses. Policies for distance education courses should address but are not limited to matters of review and assessment of the quality of distance education courses, course loads, instructors’ qualifications and intellectual property.

Meeting dates: The committee met on October 7, November 4, December 3, 2014 and January 13, February 4, March 11 and April 8, 2014.

Primary Accomplishments for 2014-2015

Considered and began addressing the colleges drop in ranking of online schools of education from #2 to #18 in US New and World Report

Piloted an instructor peer review process for conducting peer evaluations of online courses in response to one of the factors in the ranking decline.

Launched the Learning and Teaching with Technology Challenge Grants program seeking collaborative teams of faculty, graduate students, and Instructional Consulting staff to focus on enduring challenges in Blended and Online Learning

Topics discussed at meetings and recorded in meeting notes

Rankings. This was discussed extensively across several meeting. Associate Dean Boling attended the March 8 meeting that focused on the various changes to the ranking both in terms of the questions they
asked and the responses we gave.

- The most salient thing was that we answered “no” the question of whether we had a peer review system for our online courses.
- Another issue that was discussed was the supervision of doctoral students who were teaching online courses—this issue was communicated the office of the Executive Associate Dean who followed up on it.
- We also discussed exam proctoring policies. We now have the capacity to do so and this should be included in the ranking report next year.
- Discussed the reputation component of the rankings and what other colleges to boost their rankings. Unlikely we can manage that
- Discussed some of the data requirements around indebtedness, job placements, etc and concluded we cannot gather that information

**Peer review.** This was discussed across several meetings. A concern was raised that the Quality Matters process was too cumbersome and requires a tedious 8-hour workshop. Dan Hickey and Barb Erwin ultimately decided to review each other’s courses using the QM rubric and concluded that the rubric itself is quite useful and covers many of the key points. The committee now needs to determine what needs to happen to expand peer review of online courses and adopt some sort of policy.

**Canvas LMS.** We discussed both the new learning analytics effort going forward across the campus as well as the SOE hosted instance of the open source version that Michael Taylor is installing for IU. As of the April meeting, both activities were still in progress and very much unfolding

**LTT challenge grants.** The committee derived a new grant competition that was intended to bring together teams consisting of a faculty member, graduate students, and IC staff around enduring challenges with blended and online learning, with a particular focus on Canvas and with the various external apps that are available for that platform. The Dean’s office agree to support it at the level of $2K support for graduate students and $2K research stipend for the faculty members and the call went out.

**Course evaluations system.** We discussed the new Blue system and the fact that the SOE had decided to go only with a very basic set of questions this first year.