

Summary of OEI Excerpts from district-wide Technology Coordinating Committee (TCC)

9-12-2014

Online Education Initiative

Scott Vigallon presented information from the State Chancellor's office, which can be found at <http://ccconlineed.org/>. He detailed how the implementation of this initiative would impact the community colleges. So far, 24 colleges are part of the pilot that would make a range of online courses at these colleges available to students attending any of the pilot schools. The idea is to increase access to courses to improve retention and success.

11-14-2014

Online Education Initiative

Scott provided an update on the OEI. 18 courses have been recommended by the OEI steering committee as high-demand AA-T/AS-T courses to be part of the initial phase of the pilot starting in Summer or Fall 2015, depending on when the OEI is ready. A course design rubric has been approved, a set of quality standards for courses, that will be part of the course exchange. Courses that go in must be reviewed for quality/accessibility before they are launched. The OEI is featured in the September Senate Rostrum, a quarterly publication of the Statewide Academic Senate. For colleges that want to use the 24/7 online tutoring service at the local level, this would be offered at a reduced cost by the Foundation for CCCs. A common course management system will be selected by March 30. Scott presented OEI information to the LPC Academic Senate on September 24 and is scheduled to make a college-wide presentation on December 3 at the town meeting. The OEI executive director will come to speak at LPC after the town meeting in a breakout session which will provide the campus an opportunity to ask questions. Hopefully there will be union representation at this meeting. In the future when it comes to making decisions, Scott hopes that we decide how we are going to make that decision and identify who gets to make the decision. Jeannine asked if the executive director was going to go to Chabot as well. Scott clarified that they requested she come to LPC, so Chabot would need to do the same. Minta said she would see what the interest level is for Chabot's COOL committee. Debbie asked if curriculum needs to be approved, and Scott said that committee chair is aware this is coming up. Howard asked if Scott had an idea what the common CMS might be, but that still isn't clear. Scott directed members to the OEI website at ccconlineed.org.

12-12-2014

Online Education Initiative (OEI)

Last Wednesday at the Las Positas Town Meeting, Scott Vigallon gave a presentation along with Richard Dry to the college. Pat James from the State Chancellor's office spoke at the breakout session after the Town Meeting. Scott Vigallon presented to the TCC the information that she provided at the breakout. More information on the OEI can be found at the State Chancellor's website <http://cccco.edu/>. A summary of the highlights discussed follows. Colleges do not have to be part of the course exchange in order to be part of the OEI. Regarding course management systems being selected for the OEI, one will have a preferred feature. Soon after, all the systems will have the same functionality, so the selected system is not absolutely critical for the initiative. It was noted that Blackboard has learning outcomes assessment, which is a separately licensed module. Minta Winsor shared that one element of the course exchange is that students will go to one place to enroll, which should make things easier. Norm Buchwald asked if there has been an effort to get the different Course Management System

(CMS) vendors to present, as the chief librarians did something similar when reviewing library systems. Jeannine Methe asked about the number of pilot colleges, and Scott Vigallon said there would be 24 total. Jeannine Methe asked if Las Positas was in the process of deciding to join and Scott Vigallon said Las Positas was not looking at joining the pilot group right now. Scott Vigallon noted that questions regarding the OEI were held until the breakout session to be answered by Pat James.

03-13-2015

Online Education Initiative Update

Scott said there is a lot of momentum statewide going toward the Online Education Initiative and a lot of money is going toward it. Canvas has been selected as the OEI's common course management system, and Blackboard came in second. Canvas will be offered to participating colleges at low or no cost. The Butte-Glenn CCD Board is expected to approve Canvas on March 25 and a contract signed by March 30. Timelines will be determined through negotiations with the vendor. Canvas and the OEI are working with the eight pilot colleges on implementation and training. They are also working with @ONE to create a professional development roadmap. A sandbox will be available for colleges. Canvas also has a tool to import Blackboard courses and 60-75% will come over, but the rest will need to be cleaned up by the instructor. Several colleges will run Canvas concurrently with their existing CMS. The course exchange is supposed to go live in Spring 2016. The OEI anticipates matriculation agreements by then. The first 24 courses are anticipated to begin in Fall 2015. Approximately 2,500 students are expected to enroll in OEI pilot courses. Over 70 individual online courses have been reviewed. Proctoring tools are beginning to be evaluated by the OEI workgroup. Tutoring solutions are being reviewed by the Foundation for California Community Colleges within the next few weeks. Debbie asked who was leading the initiative for Las Positas, and Scott responded that nobody has stepped up to do this so far. Rachel Ugale said in a conference she attended it sounded like the OEI was being implemented in tiers, so as the first tier starts, another tier prepares to enter the implementation phase. Steve said the colleges need to begin these conversations if they want to take part.

4-10-2015

State's "Online Education Initiative" (OEI) - Update

Scott Vigallon was asked to present information on the OEI at the Educational Support Services committee and they have asked to be kept up to date about what is going on. The ESS group wanted to have some say in how the OEI is carried out by the colleges. The Statewide Academic Senate is discussing the OEI in their plenary.

Online tutoring services are now available through LSI NetTutor at a low cost, including up to 24/7 live tutoring and asynchronous tutoring options. Colleges can contract with NetTutor for comprehensive online tutoring, after hours online tutoring to supplement local efforts, and also subject-specific tutoring. The cost is \$25 an hour, charged to the minute for time spent helping students. There is also a system-wide license for Worldwide Whiteboard, an online tutoring platform for colleges wanting to hire tutors for private online tutoring that can be implemented at no cost. It can be used for counseling/advising. This and NetTutor are available inside and outside of the OEI.

There will soon be a Canvas resource site for colleges that includes videos and demo sites and colleges can create a site on Canvas right now. The student readiness module is supposed to be available by the end of the year. It will be available to colleges via a Canvas implementation. The OEI is also working

on training online counselors and they might begin calling students who are at-risk. The OEI is not offering online basic skills courses right away, but they will be embedding support resources in their courses. In order to meet the accreditation requirement of student authentication, the OEI is forming a statewide proctoring network to provide on-ground proctoring. They are also looking to procure a system to verify student identities online. They are also partnering with the council of chief librarians to offer streamlined library access for students.

New professional development opportunities are in the works for OEI rubric training. Contract negotiations with Canvas are ongoing. Board approval by Butte-Glenn CCD is expected to be April 22 with a contract signed by May 1st. Project planning and a communication protocol along with pilot college implementation and professional development will commence. According to the OEI Executive Director, the OEI might need to ask State Legislature for more money. Representatives from instruction and student services at full launch pilot colleges are figuring out the details of the business processes and agreements of the colleges within the exchange. The OEI is also looking at a help desk solution for after hours support.

Steve Gunderson asked if the colleges were evaluating any part of the OEI. Debbie Fields said that this should be a priority for the district and a decision needs to come from top down. Other colleges in our region are already part of the OEI, with even more colleges becoming part of the degree audit and common assessment initiatives. Steve suggested the TCC makes a recommendation to explore joining the OEI. The group discussed doing this jointly with the ESS committee, possibly forming a subcommittee. Debbie suggested that this topic needs to be put on the agendas of other committees as well. Rachel Ugale suggested that the group learn more about the OEI and suggested that others look at what has been posted on the OEI website. The TCC group agreed to write up a recommendation to develop a charter for a district-wide task force to explore, investigate, and research the OEI and make a recommendation to the Chancellor about which aspects of the OEI, if any, are appropriate for CLPCCD participation.

05-08-2015

State's "Online Education Initiative" (OEI)

Scott Vigallon said a contract with Canvas was supposed to have been signed on May 1, but no details have been provided as to its terms. There is an independent contract with each college that has more generalized terms of use of Canvas on campus, and this contract will serve as a "use" agreement that should spell out how we use Canvas. Colleges will have the option to contract directly with Canvas for services that are not in the state's OEI contract. At Las Positas, Blackboard is used for non-instructional purposes, and the contract may not apply towards this type of use. Therefore, if CLPCCD decides to participate in the OEI, then the colleges may have to contract with Canvas directly, at a cost, for non-instructional use. Only courses in the OEI course exchange will be required to be offered in Canvas. The expectation in the future is to move off of individual systems and on to Canvas completely. Scott said the OEI coordinator has contacted Distance Education coordinators about joining the OEI, and that Blackboard has also started to offer additional features at no cost. Ruth Hanna asked where to find more information online about Canvas, and Scott pointed the group to their website www.instructure.com.

Scott has created a draft recommendation for a charter of an OEI task force within the Chabot-Las Positas Community College District, and he received feedback from the LPC Distance Education Committee and incorporated it into the draft recommendation. Ruth suggested preparing a preliminary

report at the end of the fall semester, with the intent to make a complete recommendation at the end of year.

The group discussed a protocol for making recommendations to the Chancellor via a signed form from the TCC Co-Chairs. The TCC members made additional suggestions for final changes to the OEI recommendation to the Chancellor. Scott will incorporate these changes into the final document and email the final version to the TCC. The TCC members unanimously voted to proceed with the recommendation including the latest modifications agreed to in this meeting. Jeannine Methe, CTO, will bring the recommendation forward to our Chancellor, Dr. Jackson, for her review and approval. Jeannine will notify the TCC members of the status via email during the summer since there are no TCC meetings. The final recommendation to the Chancellor submitted is to “create a task force to explore, investigate, and research the OEI and make a recommendation to the Chancellor about which aspects of the OEI, if any, are appropriate for CLPCCD participation”.

09-11-2015

State’s “Online Education Initiative” (OEI)

Scott Vigallon gave an update on the main things that happened since TCC last met. The Student Readiness tutorials are now available and can be used by any California Community College. Although we can use them without joining the OEI, they’ll be more effective to colleges within the OEI because they’ll be integrated into courses using Canvas. There are built-in analytics that allow instructors or system admins to get data on students and evaluation tools with these tutorials will also be built-in. The course exchange has been pushed back to start in Fall 2016. The OEI is still working on the business processes associated with students enrolling at other colleges. The OEI is transitioning colleges to Canvas using implementation cohorts that start in October and April so that faculty can participate in training outside of the summer months and instruction can begin at the start of a Fall or Spring term. Cohorts last 15 months, with the first three months dedicated to Canvas implementation. This includes authentication, SIS integration, support setup, branding, training and course migration. The 12 months following allow for campuses to run both Canvas and their legacy CMS in parallel for at least two full semesters. According to the OEI, on August 20, about 15 colleges have selected an implementation cohort for purposes of migration. Regarding OEI funding, while the intent is to fully fund Canvas through 2019, it is understood that the State’s fiscal situation is subject to change. While it is unlikely that colleges will be asked to fund the cost of Canvas, colleges could be asked to pay for a portion of the licensing costs. It is being recommended that colleges save 20% of the cost savings from their current CMS license in case of future obligations to fund Canvas locally. The OEI is expected to provide information on what they consider the 20% to be, and it is expected to be an annual cost. If we join in two years, and the original OEI funding is finished, we might not be 100% covered. Those who have already joined the pilot are getting Canvas for free, but it is unknown what the State Legislature is going to allocate for funding going forward. They are saying there will be funding, and much of that will go toward Canvas

licensing. Scott said he talked to a colleague at Ohlone College yesterday and they are moving forward with going from Blackboard to Canvas. He also said it was reported in the news recently that Blackboard was up for sale. Jeannine said the current license is up for renewal next year, and has generally been renewed in two-year increments. Scott mentioned that the OEI is being flexible with dates because they want schools to adopt. Ruth asked what the obligation is for colleges who join the OEI. Scott responded that the college would use Canvas, which provides access to tools and support. Minta Winsor added that the course exchange and the use of Canvas are somewhat separate. If you go

into the exchange, the courses have to be using Canvas. But, you could adopt Canvas and choose not to go into the exchange. Minta and Lisa Ulibarri reiterated Scott's earlier point that the OEI hasn't fully figured out SIS integration yet, which is part of what is holding up the course exchange. Debbie Fields suggested joining the course exchange without offering any classes to give students the opportunity to register for these other classes. Scott discussed the effect this might have on enrollment management, allowing students to register elsewhere and losing potential apportionment. Jeannine reminded the group that the recommendation to create an OEI task force should happen in the next few weeks to begin exploring these items. By the end of fall, the task force could report its findings, and by the end of spring, we would know enough to make a recommendation on what would be best for both colleges. Scott said with the rollout of the course exchange being pushed back to Fall 2016, there may not be sufficient information to make a decision about joining the exchange. Jeannine reminded the group that transitioning to a new CMS is not an easy task, judging from past experience, and it took a while to get support up to an adequate level when the District moved to Blackboard. She said she generally recommends not being the first to adopt new technologies and see what other colleges are experiencing and plan around the lessons others have learned from their early implementations. Debbie pointed out that not all faculty use Blackboard, as they are not required to and may prefer to use other CMS systems that are openly available, such as those through textbook publishers. Ruth Hanna asked if there was a pilot group of faculty who tested the system as research before the District moved from WebCT to Blackboard. Scott responded, saying Chabot used Blackboard. Jeannine added that faculty were involved with the selection of the CMS, but the conversion occurred all at one time. Scott asked Jeannine to explain the process to establish the OEI task force. Jeannine said over the Summer, she presented the OEI recommendation along with the forms generation recommendation to the Chancellor, who reviewed and approved both. Jeannine was going to connect with the college presidents and vice presidents to recommend who will participate on these task forces, along with District and college IT staff. She expects that this will all begin after the Accreditation visits. Scott reminded the group that there are individuals who can represent multiple groups on the task force, which could help in keeping the size of the task force manageable. Jeannine suggested looking at how many people are interested initially to see determine how to move forward. Ruth mentioned that it is difficult for faculty to commit to participating in these types of groups unless they know ahead of time what the regular meeting times will be. The few people who need to be on the task force because of their roles will determine a regular meeting time. Jeannine will wait until this is done before soliciting participation from the colleges.

10-09-2015

State's Online Education Initiative

Scott said according to the OEI, on September 18, the first group of eight pilot colleges are teaching a total of 24 classes in Canvas. The other 16 colleges that are piloting online tutoring and the online readiness modules are in the Canvas implementation process and will begin teaching with Canvas in January.

The first group of eight pilot colleges are coming to agreement and beginning the functional requirements for the business processes that will make the Course Exchange work.

The OEI has been training counselors on how to counsel online students and are underway to determine an online platform to connect counselors with students. Online counseling is supposed to begin Spring 2016.

According to OEI Executive Director Pat James on September 24, the money the OEI is receiving is intended to be ongoing at the \$10 million per-year grant. At the present time, the initiative can pay for all colleges through 2018-19, including support services. It will be requesting additional funds to keep the full-cost coverage beyond the 2018-19 academic year. If the increase is not granted, and OEI funding levels stay as they are now, the grant can pay for two-thirds of the cost of Canvas based on ongoing funding levels. So, if a college does have to pay in 2019-20, the OEI anticipates that it will be a fraction of what it would otherwise cost. If the funding for OEI is eliminated, the colleges will have to assume the cost, and they will know in advance of signing the implementation agreement what it would be.

For those concerned that the OEI will take FTES away from a college, the OEI says all of the colleges that will be piloting the OEI Course Exchange will be offering classes in the Exchange as well as having students participate in the Exchange. There is an opportunity to gain FTES while providing courses to students that they need to complete their goals. The OEI expects the student need to level out the Exchange use across colleges, and the pilot will be the place to test that out. Regarding a possible concern that students will take all their courses online from multiple schools, the OEI says students will be encouraged to only take classes from the Exchange when they are missing a class or two that would allow them to complete in a timely way. A student will be limited to two exchange classes per term during the pilot. After that, the consortium (colleges in the pilot) will decide if there is a limit and what it should be. The Exchange will also recognize unit residency requirements for the granting of degrees and other considerations that may restrict whether a student is able to take classes in the Exchange.

Ruth wanted to know if students would be informed if a local class was full, to take the class through the exchange. Distance ed was created for students who were unable to take classes in person, but now students are taking online courses out of convenience. There should be a consideration to opening more sections before directing students to the exchange. Rachel Ugale said that the student information systems across the colleges in the exchange would need to be able to communicate with one another in order for such a notification to occur.