

Motion Supporting the Development of a ~~Temporary~~ University-Wide Task Force on Online Course Delivery

WHEREAS: Radford University is moving to increase the number of online course offerings;

WHEREAS: Radford University wants to ensure the quality of its online offerings;

WHEREAS: Radford University currently lacks an overall vision of the place of online offerings within the total curriculum;

WHEREAS: Currently the Center for Innovative Teaching and Learning and Academic Computing lack the resources to successfully support a major push to online course delivery;

RESOLVED: Resolved that the Faculty Senate supports the establishment of a university-wide task force on online course delivery whose tasks would be development of: (1) an overall vision of the place of online courses within Radford University's undergraduate and graduate curriculums; (2) some method to assist departments that are considering the development of online classes to undertake self-studies of what courses within the discipline effectively can be taught online; (3) a plan for providing the course development support and training in the development of quality online instruction needed to assist faculty members who wish to develop online classes; (4) some method of assuring the quality of online course instruction, whether it be QUALITY MATTERS, development of a cadre of internal reviewers, or some other assessment tool; (5) a plan for providing technical support needed to make online course delivery successful; and (6) some method of working with Registrar's Office and the Advising Centers on acceptance for Radford University credit of online courses taken at other institutions.

The composition of this committee would include: (1) a representative of the Registrar's Office; (2) a representative of the Center for Innovative Teaching and Learning; (3) a representative from Information Technology; (4) a member of the Faculty Senate; (5) a representative of the Office of Assessment; (6) a representative of the Dean's Council; and (7) three faculty members with experience in the development and delivery of online courses. This committee would submit a report containing a vision statement and a plan for implementation to the Provost and to the Faculty Senate Executive Council by February 15, 2013 in order to allow time for Senate discussion of the report by the end of the 2012-2013 academic year. We foresee this plan taking several years to implement. The Faculty Senate Executive Council would nominate the faculty members for the committee who would serve two-year staggered terms except during the first year when one faculty member would be nominated for a one-year term; one would be nominated for a two-year term, and one would serve a three-year term. The Faculty Senator on the committee would come from the Faculty Senate Curriculum Committee.

RATIONALE:

- At the moment the university's plan for delivering online course instruction lacks an overall vision of the place of online courses within a Radford University education
- Additional staff would need to be added to the Center for Innovative Teaching and Learning and to Academic Computing to support the addition of any large number of online classes
- The university's faculty members wish to ensure that any classes developed for online delivery follow best practices for online courses.