

Executive Committee of Arts and Sciences Council Recommendations For Moving Forward With Online Learning

On April 25, 2013 the Arts and Sciences Council passed
(with one dissenting vote) a resolution:

Whereas, Duke faculty encourage and embrace online innovation, therefore be it resolved that Duke faculty remain committed to continuing their current practice of exploring and adopting a variety of online platforms with which to deliver the highest quality liberal arts education.

Recommendation 1. ESASC recommends that the Arts and Sciences *Curriculum Committee* be tasked with:

- a. Actively seeking input from the broader A&S faculty
- b. Developing curricular policy recommendations
- c. Reporting back periodically to ECASC and the Council
- d. Presenting final policy recommendations to the A&S Council on January 9, 2014

Issues include, but are not limited to:

- a. What, if any, is the limit on the number of online courses an undergraduate may count towards the 34 courses required?
- b. What is the limit on the number of non-Duke courses an undergraduate may count towards the 34 courses required?

Recommendation 2. ESASC recommends that the Arts and Sciences *Course Committee* be tasked with:

- a. Actively seeking input from the broader A&S faculty
- b. Developing policy recommendations and guidelines for online courses
- c. Reporting back periodically to ECASC and the Council
- d. Presenting final policy recommendations to the A&S Council on January 9, 2014

Issues include, but are not limited to:

- a. The “typical” one course credit requires approximately 2100 minutes of contact (150 times 14). What is the policy concerning hours and credit for online courses?
- b. What are the approval processes and procedures for online courses?

Recommendation 3. ESASC recommends that the *Executive Committee* be tasked with utilizing appropriate University departments, offices, faculty, staff to gather information, identify resources, and facilitate conversations that will allow faculty members to offer the highest quality online courses.

This includes:

- a. Organizing opportunities (fora, conversations, workshops, faculty speakers, demonstrations) for faculty to come together to discuss: best practices, results of experimentation and innovation, useful resources, assessment of online learning, research on online learning.
- b. Gathering information on peer institutions.
- c. Utilizing offices such as the Center for Instructional Technology to gather and share information on available platforms and various approaches to online learning.
- d. Exploring the possible use of mini-grants to encourage innovation
- e. Regularly reporting to the A&S Council on these activities

Recommendation 4. Council representatives
tasked with:

- a. Survey of departments: What do faculty
want?
- b. Report to ECASC (December)

Here's the scoop.
Our first faculty forum is here!

*What's Happening in Online Teaching at Duke:
Three Faculty Members and their Experiences*

- Denise Comer (Thompson Writing Program)
- Ronen Plesser (Physics)
- Orin Starn (Cultural Anthropology)

Friday, September 27th, 10:00 - 11:30
Perkins 217 Refreshments Served

More conversations to come. Please join in.