Santa Monica College  
Distance Education Committee  
Minutes of March 13, 2014

Members: Sal Veas (chair), Julie Yarrish (vice chair), Jamie Cavanaugh, Dana DelGeorge, Wendi DeMorst, Peggy Kravitz, Mona Martin, Walter Meyer, Judith Remmes**, Saul Rubin, Odemaris Valdivia**

*Present  **Excused

Invited Guests: (Pearson/eCollege): Greg Eiselein – Manager, Learning studio; Jessica Hector – Strategic Account Manager; Colleen Quinn – Client Services Consultant

The Santa Monica College Distance Education Committee was called to order by Sal Veas at 11:15 a.m.

Approval of Minutes: The reading and approval of the minutes of the meeting of February 27, 2014 was tabled.

New Business:

- There was a brief introduction by all present.

- Greg Eiselein proceeded with a run-down, goals and status of Pearson/eCollege products currently in the "pipeline":
  - eCollege has made some improvement on release times and is continuing to further speed up those times;
  - They are continuing to make progress to move faster and be more responsive;
  - There will be more focus and concentration on individual issues and products;
  - Jessica Hector reported that the expanded Help Desk has improved since fall 2013;
  - In general communications has been improved;
  - They have, and will continue the way products are released;
  - Large releases will include an “on – off” feature with a 60-day trial period before being turned on across the board;

- 2012/2013 Releases:
  - Threaded discussion
  - Accessibility
  - Social Course Home – Performance Enhancements (moved further into beta – ok to use)
  - Gradebook was upgraded:
  - Rubrics notification
  - Assessment/Grading items have been added in the last 12 months;
  - An “adding content” item is currently in the works;
  - Exam Visual editor for essay and short answer questions (available now)
  - Grademark integration with Turn-It-In (available now)
  - Mobile iPad (awaiting SMC to complete SSO integration component - requested 7/2013)

- Anticipated for 2014 delivery:
  - Display multi-take exam attempts;
  - Threaded discussions: (sorting options, hide topic, post first, message counts) Avatars pending
    - A re-design with update look and feel. Tentatively anticipated to be released in two stages, June 2014 and November 2014;
Audio/video in course, i.e. ability to capture short recordings. Anticipated release end of 2014 if 508 compliance issues can be addressed.

Gradebook
- Convert numeric to letter grade
- Drop high and low grades

Social course home page

Mobile: iPhone (available now) Android forthcoming

Exams: Display attempts, multi take exams

Auto save in threads and gradebook

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 12:35 p.m.

Next Meeting: The next meeting of the Distance Education Committee will be in HSS 261 (Senate Conference Room) 11:15 A.M., Thursday, March 27.