

Santa Monica College
Distance Education Committee
Minutes of April 18, 2017

Voting members: Pete Morris (chair), Julie Yarrish (vice-chair), Fabienne Chauderlot, Sheila Cordova*, Dana DelGeorge, Regina Ip, Shawn Jordison*, Peggy Kravitz, Jenny Resnick
*Excused

Also in Attendance: Christine Miller, Gary Ortega, Tammara Whitaker

The Santa Monica College Distance Education Committee was called to order by Pete Morris at 12:52p.m.

Public Comments: None

Announcements: None

Action Items: Approval of minutes from last meeting of April 4. Moved by Fabienne Chauderlot, seconded by Jenny Resnick. Approved unanimously (4-0)

Chairs' Reports:

Vericite plagiarism webinar impressions:

- Upon first impression, the product looks like a potential alternative to TurnItIn (TII) and seems worth exploring further.
- Vericite's integration with Canvas looks more seamless than does TII's. Rather than an external tool, Vericite appears as a check-box option for assignments submitted via Canvas's default "online" submission type.
- Vericite is a plagiarism checker only; it lacks the additional grading tools of TII. Vericite instead depends on the LMS (e.g., Canvas) to provide such tools. For existing users of TII, then, a move to Vericite could require a significant change in workflow and loss of functionality. This should be a key consideration moving forward.
- Another concern is that Vericite is not able to import or otherwise access TurnItIn's bank of submitted student papers. Vericite creates its own such bank, which is used alongside two different methods for checking against work publicly available online. But this Vericite bank would need to be built up over time with use.
- What role does the DE committee want to play in pursuing the investigation of this vendor product? Vericite offered a pilot option to test-drive their product.
- What direction does Jason Beardsley, English dept. chair, want to take at this time?
- While the TII contract is being renewed for a new year, is there a faculty member, perhaps in English, who would be willing to pilot VeriCite?
- an archived recording of the webinar is available via CCCConfer:
<http://cccconfer.org/Meetings/Recordings?q=vericite&DateRangeList=12>

Reminder: The Chancellor's office Distance Education faculty satisfaction survey will be deployed @ April 21. Sender information from the CCCCO should be forthcoming. Awaiting details from the CCCCO office.

The Chair invited Regina to share some take-away items from a presentation she attended that focused on distance-education student engagement and how activities provided outside of classroom

assignments can help foster the sense of an online learning community. The presentation centered around a recent dissertation project that highlighted religion clubs and other student activities.

- Can DE foster the creation of online student “meet-up” events, perhaps at locations beyond the SMC campus?
- The DE coaching pilot project idea that the committee recently has floated might similarly foster student engagement and better support student success.

Discussion Items

Smarthinking: A tour of the admin pages was demoed for the committee. This included student data on their level of satisfaction and comments on the ST survey site. Most comments were quite favorable. One student happily reported that there was only a two-hour turnaround from their submitting a written assignment to it being reviewed with recommended changes and returned to the student.

- Of note, 50% of the students who use this service are only taking on-campus classes. Many are math and science students.
- With more students now using ST, this raises questions about its sustainability from a budgetary point of view, especially if offered as a full-campus resource.

Curriculum Committee & DE proposal documents. Guido is expected to attend the May 2 or May 16 DEC meeting to discuss updating the proposal paperwork. Issues to discuss include:

- making the document CMS agnostic (i.e., removing all mention of eCollege)
- distinction between hybrid vs. fully online classes; this conversation should include Jenny Merlic
- ensuring that DE course proposals are evaluated in a manner that is consistent and that reflects the OEI’s course design standards

OEI Exchange: Does the committee want to re-open the possibility of participating in the Exchange at some point in the future?

- General openness to the idea but difficult to form strong opinions either way without knowing more about potential costs and benefits of Exchange membership.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 2:04p.m.

Next Meeting: The next meeting of the Distance Education committee will be Tuesday, May 2 from 12:45 - 2:00 p.m. Location: Media Center conference room.

Please remember that there is no food or drink allowed in the media center conference room

Voting Members	Approval of Minutes for April 4 meeting
Fabienne Chauderlot	Abstain
Sheila Cordova	Excused
Dana Del George	Abstain
Regina Ip	Yes
Shawn Jordison	Excused
Peggy Kravitz	Abstain
Pete Morris	Yes
Jenny Resnick	Yes
Julie Yarrish	Yes