Meeting of the Distance Learning and Student Services Members Council (DLSS MC)

Nov. 14 (1 p.m. – 5 p.m. Eastern Time) and Nov. 15, 2023 (9 a.m. – 12 p.m. Eastern Time)

Attendees:

DLSS MC Members: Priscilla Suarez (BC), Vikki Milton (CC), Josh Strigle (CCF), Bill Harrison (DSC), Philip Simpson and Andrew Lieb (EFSC), Franzetta Fitz (FAMU), Evangelina Prevolis (FIU), Dr. Rozalind Jester and Laura Osgood, (FSWSC), Dr. Ujjwal Chakraborty (FSC), Robert Fuselier (FSU), Lori Driscoll, (GCSC) Vicki Westergard (HCC), Katie Profeta and April Litton (IRSC), Dr. Michael Nathanson, (LSSC), Dr. Donna Jennings (MDC), Bryan Biggers (PBAU), Jehu Chong and Laura Bassett, (PBSC), Breanna Perry (PHSC), Cody Moyer (Polk State College), Page Jerzak (SFC), Marisabel Irizarry (SSCF), Joann Kramer (SFSC), Dominic Christison (SCFMS), Christina Will (SJRSC), Timothy Godcharles (SPC) Kim Manning, (TCC), Robert Reed and Kevin Corcoran (UCF), Kevin Hulen and Mandy Lesseig (UNF), Dennis Walpole, (USF) and Geni Wright (VC).

Guests: Dr. Clifford Humphrey, Executive Vice Chancellor, Florida College System; Dr. Jon Rogers, Assistant Vice Chancellor, Innovation and Online Education of the State University System; Amanda Poss, HCC, Paul Rabaut, HCC; Richard Senker, HCC, Brett Perlman, Michael Hemlepp, John Floyd, Jordan Adair and Kimberly Pulda with HonorLock; Krystian Grodecki, D2L; Raquel Perez (FIU), Mackenzie Donovan (UF), presenter.

FLVC Staff: Brooke Tome, Dr. John Opper, Nashia Dawahre, Ashley Thimmes, Tom Tu, Kathy Parker, Dawn Aguero, Chase Fiorini, Sarah Michael Anderson, Mike Neff, Stevan Polansky, Richard Conn, Shawn Wilson, Dawn Aguero, Michael Porter.

Welcome and Call to Order; Future Meeting Planning

Robert Fuselier (FSU), Chair, called the meeting to order and recognized the incoming and outgoing Council members. He then turned it over to Dr. Rozalind Jester (FSWSC) to discuss upcoming meeting dates for the Members Council. The next meeting is slated for Feb. 7-8 at Polk State College. Jester said a decision needed to be made on the summer 2024 meeting dates. Dates for May and June were under consideration at Seminole State College. After some discussion, May 21-23 was chosen.

Fuselier then asked for a motion and a second to approve the minutes from the May 17-18, 2023 meeting. Brooke Tome with FLVC then took a verbal attendance.

Richard Senker with HCC then welcomed the members to the Ybor City campus.

All in Education Presentation

Mackenzie Donovan, AI2 Project Center Manager at the University of Florida, gave a presentation about AI initiatives at the university. She talked about AI and machine learning. She said experts define AI differently based on their field of work. She then discussed the UF’s AI curriculum workgroup. She mentioned Chat GPT and how it has changed the educational landscape and mentioned some of the capabilities of AI, including medical diagnosis, financial services, and precision agriculture. Donovan said for the most part in the future people will not lose jobs directly to AI but could to people who are trained and have applicable skills in AI. She said UF is going “All In” on AI because AI is in every business sector, custom made applications are being developed in most industries and there is a 75 percent growth in AI related employment, and the U.S. has an AI workforce shortage. Donovan said UF was gifted one of the largest AI supercomputers in higher education. Each of the colleges at UF have taken up the initiative on AI. She talked about how UF is teaching AI to help solve grand challenges. UF has hired 110 new AI faculty throughout the 16 colleges. AI is not only housed in just engineering and business, but in all the colleges, she said. Donovan said UF is teaching AI to any student, regardless of their major in a program, as part of an initiative called AI Across the Curriculum. She then talked about UF’s first ever undergraduate certificate that is being offered and the requirements for it. She detailed the four categories for AI courses. There are more than 230
courses. She then discussed some faculty requirements and then detailed UF’s AI Scholars program. Donovan wrapped up her presentation and then took some questions.

**Executive Director Updates**

Dr. John Opper then gave several updates for FLVC. He began by talking about new federal regulations that affect institutions serving students in programs leading to a license or certification and state authorization. He said the requirements are only for when students are being enrolled outside of the state. The effective date is July 1, 2024. Dr. Opper talked about the programmatic accreditation requirement, which he said is about student consumer protection. It is to ensure that the student is taking a program that is accredited and has value. Dr. Opper said this new requirement is not of particular concern because most programs are already accredited. Dr. Opper then detailed the new state licensure requirement, which requires colleges to notify the student that they are licensed and approved in a certain state. The institution must determine that each Title IV eligible program satisfies the requirements for professional licensure. He then discussed the revised disclosure requirements. He said if a college has not determined whether a program is eligible in a certain state after July 1, they can no longer offer that program there. Indeterminate is being taken off the table, it is either yes or no. Dr. Opper said WCET has some recommendations on what institutions should do. Dr. Opper next discussed the closure requirement and another rule concerning accessible clinicals. He then discussed guidance on TPS. He said the requirements are not retroactive but anything after July 1 is affected. Dr. Opper then took some questions regarding the new regulations. Dr. Opper next talked about the tutoring ITN, which is underway, and thanked the committee for their work. Specifications are being reviewed for an online proctor. There is discussion underway about a third ITN for accessible resource tools. Dr. Opper then talked about the latest numbers for ZTC courses in the Catalog. The numbers have increased. HCC has the most ZTC courses. He then discussed the Catalog and the program upload schedule. He then talked about the fall 2023 College 101 event and TSAA application numbers. Dr. Opper next gave an update on the RESTrofit project and the statuses of each institution’s connections. He then gave an update on the reverse transfer system and said a concept for it should be developed very soon. He then talked about the IDN network, which has over 800 listserv subscribers.

**NEST and 114 Gallery Tour**

Amada Poss and Paul Rabaut from Hillsborough Community College gave an overview of the NEST project at HCC. Poss is the gallery director at HCC and Rabaut is the college’s sustainability coordinator. Poss said just before the pandemic the gallery brought more programs to where people were at, and the gallery collections were put into various buildings around campus. There was some discussion on how to further the outreach and the decision was made to do a public art project that students could inhabit. There was further discussion about creating an area where students could learn about food sovereignty and how to grow food. The NEST (Nourishment, Education and Social Terrace was born. Artist Tory Tepp designed and created the spaces with community feedback. There is one on the Ybor City campus and another on the Dale Mabry campus. Rabaut then talked about some of the plants that can be found within the space. There are also beehives and there was a lengthy discussion about bees and honey and other aspects of NEST. After some questions, Poss and Rabaut wrapped up their discussion.

**System Updates**

Dr. Jon Rogers, Assistant Vice Chancellor, Innovation and Online Education of the State University System, provided some updates. He noted some of the recognition that Florida’s higher education system has been getting from national publications such as the Wall Street Journal and U.S. News and World Report. He said quality and Indeterminate he low cost of education in Florida are some of the reasons for those rankings. He said the performance system is clearly working. Dr. Rogers talked about the rise in legislative appropriations for higher education since 2014. He next talked about the report for online learning and the progress made there. He said the Board of Governors recently met at UCF and a recent trustee summit was also held. Dr. Rogers then discussed the committee of provosts and their work. The legislative session begins in a few weeks, and he believes it should be a positive one. The funding system is strong, and he talked about the budget request.
Next, Dr. Clifford Humphrey, Executive Vice Chancellor, Florida College System, talked to the Council and said he did not have updates, but wanted to have a discussion with the group. He said he wanted to discuss how to keep distance learning both honest and human in the age of AI. He wondered what some things people aren’t considering about AI now that they will wish they had in the future. He wanted to kick off a discussion about how to keep the human element in online learning. He asked the group some ways educators can maintain the human connection. Dr. Opper said that there are requirements for teachers to have regular and substantive interactions so that automated learning can’t take over. There was then some further discussion about the nature of regular and substantive interactions and what more can be done to improve those interactions. Dr. Humphrey said educators need to produce their own standards to provide an honest product to the students in addition to the federal standards. There was some discussion among the group about discussion boards and forums and how those can be used to better interact with students.

Following the discussion Fuselier adjourned the meeting for the day.

**Welcome and Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order by Fuselier at 9 a.m.

**Standing Committees**

There was time set aside for the Council’s three standing committees – Strategic Partnership and Licensing Standing Committee, the Student Support/Web Services Standing Committee, and the Online Instruction Committee to divide into groups. Those attending the meeting virtually were able to join the rooms of the committees on which they wanted to serve. The committees met until 10:30 a.m.

A morning break was then taken.

**Presentation on AI**

Dr. Rozalind Jester with Florida Southwestern State College gave a presentation on how faulty and leadership at her college have approached AI and are navigating that landscape. She said the faculty started with a trauma-informed approach. An AI Excellence Committee of 25 people was formed that included deans, faculty, and library staff, to look at the challenges with AI including academic integrity. They created AI toolkits for both students and faculty. Dr. Jester gave examples on how trauma-informed care was used to guide conversations. She talked about how a roadmap was provided for faculty to navigate the AI landscape and some best practices and described some of those best practices and strategies. There was some discussion among the group about policies that are being discussed regarding AI, potential guidelines, and other steps that faculty can take. Dr. Jester said there are a lot of opportunities regarding OERs. After some more discussion Dr. Jester wrapped up her presentation.

**Institutional Inventory Review and Updates**

There was an update on the institutional inventory, which would define the members’ responsibilities at their institutions and their levels of expertise. Brooke Tome with FLVC sent out a link to members to the institutional inventory. It is the list of software services that are on file for each institution. Fuselier asked the group to look over the list to make sure that it was correct for each institution. The members then took about 10 minutes to review the list.

**Wrap-up and Adjournment**

With no other items to discuss, a motion and second were taken to second to adjourn the meeting.