Online Quality Committee

Meeting Notes

4/1/2020

The meeting was held via WebEx, and there was no formal agenda.

To begin the meeting, Dr. Aulgur thanked everyone for being able to attend. We realize we may not have made as much progress at this point as we had hoped (due to current circumstances), but please use your time expeditiously to accomplish the tasks set forth for this committee and its sub-groups. At this time, we “round-tabled” each sub-group (and its facilitator) for updates.

Dr. Cass, who oversees the sub-group for standards and processes, let us know that he received all his committee’s materials and suggestions. He needs to put together a document, which he hopes to have completed by this weekend. Then, his sub-group will have a WebEx to follow. He did note there was an interesting range of opinion within his sub-group.

* Dr. Aulgur stated he understood Dr. Cass was still working on this. It is “expected with our current situation.” Thank you.

Dr. Sandy Smith, who oversees the organizational hierarchy sub-group, noted their recommendation had been sent to everyone prior to this meeting. She followed-along with the recommendation in her discussion and asked what the next step should be.

* Dr. Aulgur replied that we can have a formal discussion about it at our next OQC meeting, and in the interim, the full committee needs to review the recommendation and send their questions and thoughts to Dr. Smith to review.

Dr. Lasey, who facilitates the faculty training sub-group, let us know that they have not met recently. However, her committee did give an update at our last full OQC meeting. They recommend that T2TOL is taken advantage of before a faculty member (or adjunct) can teach online. Beyond that, if the faculty member is going to teach additional semesters online, they need to utilize the Certification Course, but the sub-group requests it be in an exclusively online format.

* Dr. Aulgur asked if they were close to formalizing this recommendation.
* Dr. Lasey replied yes, but they are looking at other schools for evidence first.
* Dr. Aulgur thanked Dr. Lasey and asked she send the formal recommendation to Jennifer Lackie when it was finished.

Weiwei spoke for the accessibility sub-group, of which he oversees. They have not met since the last full OQC meeting, but they are meeting tomorrow. Members of the sub-group have been given tasks and Weiwei will be able to provide further updates at our next OQC get-together.

Dr. Aulgur thanked everyone for their continued support.

In moving on, he spoke about how CETL, eTech, and OIS have been tasked with, “How do we assist colleagues if a full shelter-in-place is ordered?” Due to this question, built into the CETL Org within Blackboard is an ATU Faculty Community group. It contains resources for faculty to continue teaching online, discussion boards, and more.

* Dr. Lasey added it would be useful if we helped drive colleagues to the Org. She did send an announcement on Monday explaining the resources, and there are other resources that can be added. But, we want to make it clear this Org is a useful place/resource for faculty.
* Dr. Cass noted how appreciative he was for this. There are a large number of faculty who have never taught online. “Courses are a little more primitive than we may like right now.” Adding this Org, and giving faculty another way to figure out “which button to push” will greatly assist faculty, and in turn, assist students that are struggling.
* D. Lasey also said that what she sent Monday should be helpful. She understands we are in an emergency situation right now.
* Dr. Cass replied this work gives us “heft” on this committee. He believes the higher ed landscape will change due to what is learned in process of this pandemic.

Dr. Morelan wondered if the “urgent” deadline for the standards and processes had changed.

* Dr. Aulgur replied he would ask Dr. Johnson. First instinct – there will be no movement on that date of early May. Keep in mind the recommendation does not have to be final. It can be revised over the following year given input received. We just need to present something to Dr. Johnson. “Don’t let great get in the way of good.” SARA renewal is due by the end of June, so we will need to have something in place (probably by the original deadline of early May).
* Dr. Cass noted that “perfect is the enemy of good.”
* Dr. Aulgur agreed. As long as faculty know where we are in the ongoing process, we can take in recommendations after giving our idea(s) to Dr. Johnson. Another option would be to prioritize recommendations as an option. The larger OQC group can help assess as well, if needed.
* D. Cass replied this was discussed at his sub-group’s first meeting and have had responses. There will be further discussions.

Dr. Aulgur asked if any of the committee members have had any encounters that support the current need for change. Any gaps? If you think of something after our meeting that should be addressed, you can send an email afterwards. The challenge is time in identifying issues.

* Alex noted he recognizes the Kaltura and WebEx trainings were lacking. There will be more trainings but nothing has been put in place yet. Will work on getting this out for the masses.
* Dr. Cass wondered if they have explored KMS to-go.
* Alex stated that Kaltura is scrambling to keep up. They are addressing issues as they can. If it is a continual problem, he will look into it.
* Dr. Cass replied that there was a specific mobile app issue.
* Alex will look back at the training recordings to see where this was mentioned. The app is currently working.
* Ken stated that he is not aware of any issues right now. It may have been a simple error at the time and that was why it was addressed in the trainings.

Dr. Etzel let the OQC know the Library has expanded their collections for free, until June. This will ensure several titles are available short-term. “Couldn’t find a source” is not an excuse from students at this time. New Library hours are 8a-8p, Monday through Thursday, 8a-6p on Friday and Saturday, and 1p-8p on Sunday. Brent did suggest that if faculty want to add a research assignment into their course, the Librarians are available.

* Dr. Cass thanked him.

Dr. Eshelman noted that more formal information would be presented from Faculty Senate later, but at their meeting yesterday they put forth a pass or fail option. This will not affect faculty. And, students still have the choice of getting a grade as well. There is a long window for change that will allow us to catch the students before fall. Also, faculty will have the choice on whether to use evaluations this year.

Dr. Cass wondered if this included promotion and tenure.

* Dr. Eshelman stated it did include p & t. Deans and DH’s are not supposed to look at materials without faculty approval.
* Dr. Cass asked if they discussed the tenure clock issue.
* Dr. Eshelman let him know this was on the Faculty Senate agenda for their meeting in two weeks.

Dr. Aulgur thanked Dr. Eshelman and read a chat comment from Dr. McArthur. He wanted us to know the graduate college is discussing the pass or fail option by asking students to consult with their advisor, first.

Weiwei asked if the recommendation could be made to faculty for them to design their courses to be more mobile-friendly. Not being mobile-friendly could be a potential issue to students due to the pandemic.

* Dr. Aulgur replied this was a good recommendation, especially if a full shelter-in-place is ordered. The challenge is to quickly educate faculty about mobile options.

Our next full OQC Meeting will be Friday, April 10 from 11a-12p. Jennifer will send an email reminder.

Dr. Aulgur thanked everyone, again, for attending. He asked they please take care of themselves and their families. We will leave the meeting open a little longer so that attendees can read the chat, if needed. He will also set up the April 10 WebEx and make sure it includes a calendar invite (at the request of Alex).