Online Quality Committee

4/10/2020

Meeting Notes

To begin the meeting, Dr. Aulgur thanked everyone for being here. We went ahead and jumped into the agenda as we want to be respectful and mindful of everyone’s time. To start, we did a roundtable of the working groups.

Dr. Cass gave an update on the Standards and Processes. Based on feedback from his committee, he has created two documents. One is a checklist of sorts that he is working on aligning with the handbook. He also heard from Dr. Erin Clair that it should align with HLC as well. It will assist faculty with understanding what is needed in their course(s), like the syllabus and more. The second document contains categories like course content, ways to evaluate, etc. They have made good progress and should have more by our next full OQC meeting. The point is to provide faculty the tools they need and then aid them in reviewing from a design perspective (not content).

* There were no questions or comments.
* Dr. Aulgur thanked Dr. Cass and his sub-committee for the working they have done and are continuing to do.

Dr. Lasey spoke on the Faculty Training piece. Her group’s recommendation was emailed out to the OQC ahead of this meeting. They understand their recommendation would be for in the future, not during this time (with the pandemic going on).

* Dr. Aulgur asked if she wanted to form a motion today.
* Dr. Lasey motioned and it was seconded by both Dr. Cass and Dr. Eshelman.
* While the OQC was putting in their aye or nay in the chat box, we continued discussion.
* Dr. Morelan understands there is work that needs to be completed in the T2TOL to bring it up to date. Dr. Aulgur was cc’d in conversations with Ken. “Needs to be significantly updated.”
* Dr. Aulgur agreed and noted that updates were already taking place. After the updates are finished, T2TOL may transition to the Online Learning Advisory Board for upkeep and review.
* Dr. Morelan favored this idea and wanted us all to know he believes T2TOL is an excellent tool. It just needs to be brought up to date.
* Dr. Lasey stated that her sub-group was tasked with looking at the T2TOL and making recommendations for improvement.
* Dr. McArthur asked who was working on the updates.
* Dr. Mitchell replied T2TOL had been followed through the years, seeing major changes, by the ID staff and Ken. They will continue to work on, and can update, following any recommendations (from the OQC or OLAB).
* Ken agreed.
* Dr. Aulgur appreciates all the comments. This will help us keep a minimal baseline standard for faculty.
* Dr. Lasey was thinking about, “Don’t let great get in the way of good.”
* Dr. Cass noted it was interesting to see, as a Dean, that many do not find Blackboard useful as a tool for their courses (ex. Music and Art). Students and faculty are doing a lot of work, and not necessarily through Blackboard. As an example, Voice is using Zoom.
* Dr. McArthur replied from a perspective of having gone through the trainings, yes there are some fields that may require the use of different platforms, but the tips learned for online (being principle driven) help everyone.
* Dr. Aulgur agreed with both Dr. Cass and Dr. McArthur. Our LMS (Bb) is the primary framework. Faculty need to figure out the best platform for their pedagogy.
* Dr. Cass finds that in our rush to move everything online, we have come up with ways to make this all work. Maybe this will help paint online in a positive light.
* *Based on chat input, the motion from Dr. Lasey carried with all for, none against*.

Weiwei updated the OQC on the Accessibility working group. They have had two consecutive meetings with their next scheduled for 4/23. Pennington let them know there was no campus-wide policy where accessibility for course content was concerned. The group is working on a policy draft that they hope to finalize to present to the OQC at the 4/24 meeting. Also, they are working on a letter of support for Dr. Wondolowski. She has been tasked to create a working group for web-based content (MARCOMM side of the house). Ally guidelines were also discussed to be added to the policy. Lastly, Weiwei thanked his team members.

* Dr. Aulgur thanked Weiwei.
* There were no questions or comments.

Dr. Sandy Smith spoke on the Organizational Hierarchy recommendation (emailed ahead of this, and the previous, OQC meeting). Can come as a form of a motion. Are there any questions or comments? Dr. Smith motioned the recommendation.

* The motion was seconded by Dr. Cass.
* The floor was opened for discussion.
* Dr. McArthur supports this recommendation. If ATU is serious about availability of proper trainings, and if nothing else comes to pass, he endorses the need for a full-time CETL Director.
* Dr. Lasey asked Dr. Aulgur what his thoughts were.
* Dr. Aulgur replied if we were a larger institution, or had a fully funded CETL, this would be more viable. There is a clear alignment.
* Dr. Lasey agreed, and stated it was something to think about. For this to happen, the funding must be there. Would the University be okay with that? What happens to Dr. Aulgur’s position?
* Dr. Aulgur noted that to the question of capacity, even speaking to the original AVP position before the Dean role, this would require migrating a full-time job to at least a ¾ time job. If we’re talking about adding that role to a CETL position, we need to be realistic about a budget scenario. There have been more conversations about the need to be competitive in the online space. His primary concern is long-term viability.
* Dr. Cass suggested he elude to revenue generation in his conversation with Dr. Johnson. This would help support the needed framework. We would have better success in getting the position funded.
* Dr. Aulgur stated that whatever FY 2021 will be, this recommendation will be presented to Dr. Johnson. Keep focusing on the “now, and what we can do in the future.” Build it from the ground up.
* Dr. Lasey knows there is a slim to none chance this would happen by the end of this year due to budget. Not sure how recommendation would be handled, but she does know it will take time.
* Ken noted if the plan is to expand the online space, then ATU must do something like this recommendation. We are significantly behind, and something like this needs to be considered.
* Dr. Aulgur agreed. There will be many lessons learned during this time. Positive experiences enable our stronger online argument.
* *Based on chat input, the motion from Dr. Smith carried with all for, none against*.

In continuing in the agenda to Open Forum, Dr. Aulgur was asked by Dr. Austin to talk on Quality Matters and that it speaks to faculty training and professional development. Weiwei is certified to give the rubric training. This is not advocating for the QM rubric, but *it is* advocating for Professional Development. This is an option. We have a significant core of people who have participated.

* Weiwei let the OQC know that the rubric training can be face-to-face, and completed in one or two days. It depends on the group and is $20 per person (a significant saving to the university). It can also be taught online and it takes two weeks. Successful participants receive a certification and another benefit is that faculty can continue in their trainings. This includes the Peer Review Course, where after you are certified, you can be compensated for course reviews.
* Dr. Aulgur asked us not to lose sight of the investment in QM, even purely from a Professional Development perspective.
* Dr. Smith wondered if the training from Weiwei would be possible this AY?
* Dr. Aulgur replied he would not say it was impossible, but he doesn’t know.

Dr. Aulgur thanked everyone for attending again, and reminded them our next OQC meeting would be 4/24. Please continue to meet with your sub-groups to finalize drafts/recommendations.