

**WLAC DISTANCE EDUCATION COMMITTEE
REPORT TO THE ACADEMIC SENATE
February 2014**

Quality Matters Retreat: Applying the QM Rubric Workshop - August 2013

QM Program: to improve the quality of online instruction. "QM is a faculty-centered, peer review process that is designed to certify the quality of online and blended courses" (*Quality Matters Rubric Workbook for Higher Education*, 2011-2013 edition)

Goal: To train peer reviewers to evaluate existing online courses and provide feedback on course design.

The workshop in August introduced participating faculty to QM and applying the QM Rubric. It was an introductory training session. The second training, the QM Peer Review Course, was a two-week online course that took place last month. Those who completed the training are now certified QM Peer Reviewers.

Expected outcomes of the QM training:

- Formation of peer review teams
- Each peer review committee will consist of a faculty member from West, a faculty member from Pierce, and a facilitator.
- Each reviewer will be expected to serve on two – three peer review committees. Stipends will be paid for reviewing courses, and submission of courses for peer review will be voluntary.

The second Quality Matters retreat will be held mid-June 2014.

California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office (CCCCO) Report on Distance Education (2013).

- The report shows that online success rates are higher at West than the state average.
- The report also confirms that West's retention rate for online classes is equivalent to our retention rate for on-campus classes.

The complete report is available at:

http://californiacommunitycolleges.cccco.edu/Portals/0/reportsTB/REPORT_DistanceEducation2013_090313.pdf

Incorporating media, multimedia, or new technology in curriculum

West has a Digital Design Studio to help faculty to embed technology into their courses. Examples include podcasts and instructional videos.

MOOCs (Massive Open Online Course)

We have been discussing MOOC issues such as feasibility and implications.

Nancy Sander, our faculty co-chair, attended the Strengthening Student Success Conference in October. She attended a session on MOOCs and reports that Mt. SAC has a MOOC funded in part by a \$50,000 grant from the Gates Foundation. Mt SAC developed their Basic English MOOC using Coursera. It was well tracked and highly researched. They found that the MOOC attracted students from around the world, but not Mt. SAC students. They will work on targeting their own students next time. They also found that students who had never had access to education before were able to get access through the MOOC.

Etudes Summit Conference (Nov 2013). Etudes is the learning management system used for online, hybrid and web-enhanced classes at West, most colleges in the District and throughout the state.

- The Dean of Distance Learning and several faculty from West attended and/or presented at the Nov conference. Summit/Conference materials are available if interested.
 - Faculty who teach online classes may wish to 1) attend future conferences and/or submit conference proposals on online instruction. It's a great way to keep on top of what other online instructors are doing.
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Reminder: Online Instructors' Handbook available on Distance Learning web page:
<http://www.wlac.edu/online/index.asp>

Spring 2014 Meeting Schedule: 2/26, 3/26, 4/23 & 5/28, 3:00-4:00 – Winlock Lounge