

RESOLUTION ON TEACHING OF DISTANCE LEARNING CLASSES

HAVING SEEN:

Louisiana Tech University instituted an ambitious Distance Learning Program over the summer of 2008, to be implemented in the Fall Quarter 2008;

HAVING SEEN:

Many Louisiana Tech faculty were requested to teach Distance Learning (“on-line”) classes in Fall 2008, after their course loads had already been determined the previous Spring Quarter;

HAVING SEEN:

In Fall Quarter 2008, University faculty raised earnest concerns regarding their compensation, intellectual property rights, and the quality of pedagogy connected with the teaching of on-line courses;

HAVING SEEN:

The University Senate appointed an Ad Hoc Committee on Distance Learning to: a) articulate concerns and suggestions of the faculty and staff regarding the recently begun Distance Learning Initiative, b) work with Dr. James Smith, Interim Director of Distance Learning, to develop proposed solutions, and c) to report back to the full University Senate at our January 2009 meeting;

RECOGNIZING: That Louisiana Tech faculty and staff, as represented by the University Senate, support the Distance Learning Initiative and have demonstrated this through their diligence in teaching on-line courses beyond their normal work-loads; and

WHEREAS:

The Ad Hoc Committee on Distance Learning submitted its final report to the University Senate on March 16, 2009, with recommendations regarding compensation, intellectual property, and pedagogy for Distance Learning courses,

RESOLVED:

1. That faculty compensation for teaching of on-line courses be limited to one of two forms, ranked in this order of preference:

a) *In-load*: in which Louisiana Tech online courses count toward a faculty member’s load, as defined by his/her appointment, subject to approval by department chair or dean.

b) *Overload*: in which, if not in-load, the online courses count as overload courses, subject to the same pay rate as resident overload courses (8% of the nine-month salary, or \$6,000 maximum, according to Policy 1419).

2. That University Deans and Department Heads take distance learning classes into account when scheduling faculty workloads for each Quarter of teaching.
3. That University Policies be clarified to state that:
 - a) faculty members' intellectual property rights for Distance Learning courses include the same "traditional academic copyrightable works" currently applicable to resident courses at Louisiana Tech.
 - b) joint ownership of on-line course materials apply only when the faculty member accepts the stipend or credit offered for initial development of the Distance Learning course.
4. That quality of pedagogy in Distance Learning courses be ensured through the following initiatives:
 - a) faculty teaching on-line courses possess the same credentials currently prescribed in the Faculty Credentials Guidelines approved in 2006 by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools.
 - b) on-line class sizes be capped at 25 students, or a reasonable number as determined by faculty, Department Heads, and College Deans.
 - c) prior to teaching an on-line course, faculty should complete the available training in the necessary technologies.
 - d) Louisiana Tech University continue to investigate on-line delivery systems alternate to those currently in use.
 - e) enrollment be encouraged among students who do not live on the Louisiana Tech campus or the immediate Ruston area.

Louisiana Tech University Senate
April 20, 2009