Notes from Online Education Initiative Advisory Committee meeting, 9/15/17:

Sacramento

MANAGEMENT TEAM UPDATE

- Data Warehousing – OEI is developing a data warehouse reporting system to review and analyze Canvas-specific data (what features are used more than others, student click-through patterns, etc.) Does not duplicate MIS-type data.
- AB637 – on the governor's desk for signature. Enables a consortium college to accept the residency determination of another consortium college, creates an audit exception so teaching college not held responsible for home college residency determination. Eliminates regulatory and policy delays in getting students accepted by teaching colleges.
- Accessibility – OEI is pursuing a contract with ALLY, an accessibility company, to help faculty analyze and remedy their files. ALLY is preferred over other vendors. A service like this will facilitate and cut down the time it takes faculty to get courses OEI-approved. Once adopted by the CCCCO, it can be used by colleges for all courses, not just online courses involved in the Exchange.

STUDENT SERVICES UPDATE

- Online student readiness – Quest is being rolled out, a fully packaged course offered in Canvas that diagnoses student readiness for taking online classes, with feedback and an evaluation piece. Can be offered as an open-entry service even before students enroll in a class. Badger is working with Canvas to link the badge to the student's id and have it show up by their name automatically in every class they take. Evaluation of Quest is in the works with the RP Group.
- Counseling – More and more colleges are adopting the counseling modules. New modules are coming along all the time, such as mental health, as well as enriched content, such as videos. Not limited to the exchange colleges. Announcements go out to counseling listservs and CSSO's.
- Equity – sample courses are being developed that show successful ways to include equity best practices (in math no less!). These are to be publicized at various venues—conferences, workshops, etc.

PROCTORING NETWORK UPDATE, APPROVAL TO PURSUE CONTRACTS

- Proctoring – network has been opened up to all colleges at this time. Colleges can sign an MOU with OEI and get Chromebooks with Proctorio on them.
- Contracts –Academic Affairs Work Group met for the first time. Is charged with looking at various services or features needed/useful that bubble up from the field. For example, search engine, name pronunciation, preferred name and gender (instead of default name drawn from registration systems). Question: who is authorizing contracts with these vendors, what is the role this committee plays? Any recommendations for new features, whether initiated by vendors themselves or by the academic affairs work group, will still come to the whole advisory committee before contracts are signed. Action: unanimous agreement to allow subgroup to pursue contracts.

COURSE EXCHANGE UPDATE

Current Status – 6 colleges in exchange of the 8 planned for. Version 2.0 currently in pilot with full deployment by end of October. Includes student priority registration workflows, financial aid activities, introduction of feature flags, reporting enhancements. LeBaron: The program needs to be no longer promising and almost ready, but to be operating at scale … legislators are noticing. An urgency has developed. Jory: Of the original 24 colleges, 17 are still viable. Getting more schools into the exchange is a high priority beginning now with the announcement, information packets, etc. Preference will be for colleges ready to implement.

TIMELINE FOR SOLICITING NEW COLLEGES FOR CONSORTIUM

Call for interest for non-pilot colleges to join the consortium coming soon … by the end of the semester. Webinars to be held and information packets sent. Application workbooks will be provided; OEI will work with colleges to complete workbooks and prepare them to join the consortium.

PROJECT FLOW UPDATE

Project FLOW continues to roll on and has its own Project Flow page online linked to the Chancellor's Office. The group has engaged the National Center for Higher Education Management Systems (NCHEMS) to work with the system stakeholders and online thought leaders to develop the options requested by the governor. Report due by November.


Corey's Takeaways:

1. OEI is under increasing scrutiny. Much time was spent discussing the progress of the project, the relative few numbers of students who have been served. To say that OEI is in trouble would be overstating it, but there was no doubt LeBaron came to the meeting with the set purpose of conveying restlessness from legislators on the project's progress so far. In the meantime, it is continuing to do good work in terms of best practices. Hard to say, with online enrollments declining, how the exchange is going to fare. But getting the financial aid/residency issue solved is key.
2. Very likely OEI will not have as much to do with Project FLOW as DEETAC will. OEI and Flow are the siblings; DEETAC is the mama and papa. And since I am on that committee as well, I'll be sending additional thoughts from there.


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