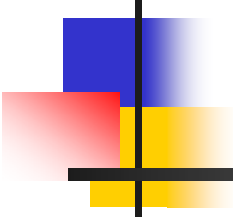


Distance Education in Higher Education



Christine Maitland, Ph.D.

National Education Association

Community College Association-
Spring Meeting 2010



“You don’t turn it on. You open it and turn the pages.”



Information Technology Revolutions

- The Written Word - 3,000 B.C.E.
- Gutenberg Printing Press - 1455
- The Remington Typewriter - 1874
- The Personal Computer - 1975
- Internet Web - 1990

■ Source: NWCET, Bellevue CC (WA)



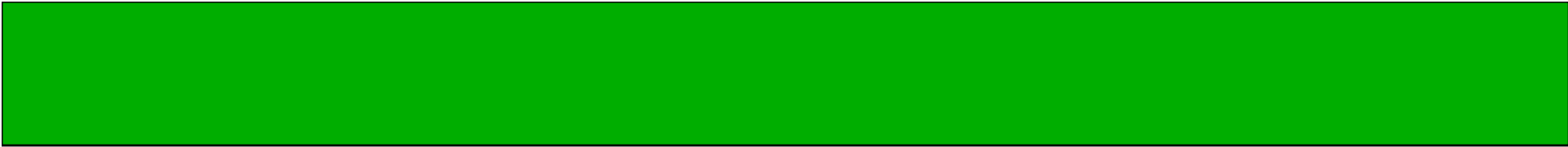
Students can no longer prepare bark to calculate problems. They depend instead on expensive slates. What will they do when the slate is dropped and breaks?

Teacher's Conference, 1703

Students depend on paper too much. They no longer know how to write on a slate without getting dust all over themselves. What will happen when they run out of paper?

Principal's Association Meeting, 1815





Students depend too much upon ink. They no longer know how to use a knife to sharpen a pencil.

**National Association of
Teachers, 1907**

Students depend too much on store bought ink. They don't know how to make their own. What will happen when they run out?

**Rural American Teacher,
1928**

Distance Education



- Not a new development - correspondence courses were established in the 1870's.
- By 1923 over 10 percent of all broadcast radio stations were owned by education institutions and delivered educational programming.
- In the 1950's the first educational television programs were created for broadcast.

P. Portway and C. Lane

Guide to Teleconferencing & Distance Learning



*Classroom of the Future?
Wired U.*



Distance Education - the New Gold Rush

- The California 49ers who rushed to Sutter's Mill some 150 years ago were certain they would find gold. . . similarly, many campuses, academic programs and commercial ventures are rushing into the distance and on-line education market certain that they will find "the gold." They are rushing forward with little real planning or a map of the terrain.
 - Casey Green 1996 Study



Institutions DL offering courses

- 66% of all 2- year and 4- year Title IV-eligible, degree-granting (estimate 2,320 institutions),
 - 97% of public 2-year
 - 89% of public 4-year
- Source: Distance Education at Degree-granting Postsecondary Institutions: 2006-2007; National Center for Ed Statistics, Dept of Ed.



Students in Distance Courses

- An estimated 12.2 million enrollments in all distance education courses offered by 2-year and 4-year institutions.
- An estimated 2,876,000 students enrolled in college-level, credit-granting distance education courses.



Technologies Used

- Asynchronous Internet courses were the most widely used technology.
- Reasons for offering DE courses
 - Meeting student demand for flexible schedules
 - Provide access for students who would not otherwise attend
 - Making more courses available
 - Seeking an increase enrollment

■ Source NCES 2007-08.

Internet on the Campus



- The faculty practice of using Web pages to make course related materials available to students is another form of “distance education,” as these materials become accessible throughout the world.
- Social media is creating new forms of DE.



Implications for the Unions

- Definition of “education employee”
- Organizing in cyberspace
- Intellectual Property
- Educators as entrepreneurs
- Definers of Quality
- Increasing use of temporary faculty



Distance Education

Contract Language -Using HECAS

Source: Draft "Bargaining for Distance Learning: Sample Contract Language" by Donovan King,
NEA Collective Bargaining and Membership



Elements of Distance Education Language in Contracts

- Philosophy: statement of support and (possibly) a guarantee against reductions and/or displacement of faculty.
- Definition: distance learning defined either broadly or in specific categories.
- Labor-Management Committee: in some cases, the parties may establish a labor-management mechanism to address issues regarding the implementation of distance learning programs.
- Appointments: participation in distance learning is voluntary, and a process for selection of participating faculty is defined.
- Course development: pay and/or release time for the development of distance learning courses.



Elements of Distance Education Language in Contracts

- Course approval: a process for the approval of new courses and assignments.
- Class size: limits on the size of distance learning classes.
- Compensation: stipends for developing distance learning classes.
- Technical support: technical support for instructors.
- Intellectual property: ownership and use of copyrighted or patented materials.



Broad definitions of distance learning

- "Distance Learning shall refer to all educational methods wherein a faculty member is at a different location than a student, and whose interaction is through the use of computer and/or telecommunications technology." (*Desert Community College District, California*)
- "'Distance learning' refers to the variety of learning environments having in common the physical separation of faculty and some or all of the students, some or all of the time." (*Lane Community College, Oregon*)



Limits on Class Size

- *Distance courses should be kept at a reasonable size, so that enrollment sizes for distance courses reflect those of traditional on-campus courses. Examples:*
- CLASS SIZE FOR DISTANCE LEARNING COURSES SHALL BE DETERMINED ACCORDING TO THE FOLLOWING:
 - 7.201 ONLINE COURSES: Class size shall be a minimum of three (3) and a maximum of twelve (12) the first time an Employee teaches an online course. Thereafter, class size shall be limited to the nominal size of the class or twenty (20), whichever is less.
 - 7.202 ITV COURSES: Class size shall be limited to twelve the first time the Employee teaches an ITV course. Thereafter, class size shall be limited to the nominal size of the course or twenty (20), whichever is less. The number of sites will be limited to two (2) remote sites."

Southern State Community College, Ohio



Example of class size limits

- “Enrollment Caps: Under general circumstances, distance learning courses will reflect caps of a traditional on-campus course. These circumstances can be mitigated with permission of the Dean of the College. If enrollment in a distance learning course exceeds twenty five (25) students a new section of the course may be opened and the professor/instructor given the privilege of first refusal for teaching the new section. When two or more faculty members serve as co-creators, they will alternate or mutually agree upon another arrangement for the right of first refusal.
- *(Glen Oaks Community College, Michigan)*



Evaluation

- *The use of electronic media offer unique opportunities for covert surveillance or the spread of unsubstantiated information. Care must be taken to ensure that evaluations of distance educators are carried out in a similar fashion as those for their counterparts in face-to-face settings.*
- Examples of language:
 - “Evaluation information shall be factual and shall not include unsubstantiated information including rumors, gossip, or anonymous letters. (Student comments provided on the student evaluation form as part of the evaluation processes shall not be excluded.) Information shall not be obtained through the use of sources such as electronic media, listening or recording devices without the written permission of the faculty member.
 - The evaluation of faculty teaching on-line, telecourse, and distance learning classes shall be the result of direct observation of the faculty member during the performance of his/her duties and shall not include any covert surveillance mediated by any technological devices.”

Kern Community College District, California



Compensation for course development

- *Distance education course preparation can take considerably longer as courses taught in a traditional manner.*
- *Therefore, distance education clauses may include additional payments for course development activities. The amounts typically vary according to credit hours and may be adjusted each year according to general salary increases.*
- *In some contracts, compensation is offered in the form of release time.*



Examples of Contract Language

- Faculty will be paid for development of web-based courses once the course development has been approved and expectations of web-based courses have been fulfilled.

- *Tompkins Cortland Community College, New York*

Compensation shall be based upon the number of credit hours as follows:

- \$1,000 for a course of one credit hour
- \$1,300 for a course of two credit hours
- \$1,600 for a course of three credit hours
- \$1,900 for a course of four credit hours
- \$2,200 for a course of five credit hours"
- Payment within 30 days of completion upon dean's recommendation."

- *Northwest State Community College, Ohio*



Tech Support Issues

- Payment for internet access for home if work is done there.
- College provide sufficient tech support and training employees to set-up, maintain, and repair College owned or leased equipment.
- Tech support for remote locations
- Adequate training for all