

Overview

The Distance Education Task Force met to discuss the implementation of fully online degree programs at Peralta Community College District. Kellie provided an overview of the previous task force's recommendations, which identified five potential fully online degree pathways: business associate's degree for transfer, psychology, sociology, political science, and a general education hub. The group discussed the implementation timeline, with a goal to have at least one program ready by fall 2027, requiring colleges to submit substantive change requests to the accreditation agency. Key challenges identified included the need for online student services, proper counseling support, and ensuring courses meet accessibility standards. The team agreed to focus on selecting appropriate colleges for these programs, considering factors like existing online course offerings and department workload. They also discussed the importance of creating multi-year schedules to allow students to start and complete degrees at different times.

Next steps

- Send out the meeting calendar to the group and ensure it is posted on the transformation page website and in SharePoint.
- Update the task force name from "Distance Education Task Force" to "Online Education Task Force" on the website and SharePoint.
- Invite Chris Bernard, Chris Moore, and Doug to join the task force.
- Reach out to the vice chancellor over admissions and records to discuss requirements for online support by fall 2027.
- Work with the other participants between now and the next meeting to begin assessing which colleges are a good fit to offer the fully online degrees.
- Send the PowerPoint presentation containing the final formal task force recommendations to the group.
- Put together a budget and make a request for an instructional designer and accessibility expert to support faculty with online course training.

Summary

Online Education Task Force Update

Kellie discussed organizing meeting materials and updating the task force's name from Distance Education Task Force to Online Education Task Force to better reflect their focus on online education rather than distance education. She explained that all meeting materials, agendas, and notes will be stored on the Shared Governance website and SharePoint folder, with historical documents also available for reference. Kellie noted the low attendance at the meeting and expressed a desire to consider additional participants for future discussions.

Online Degree Program Recommendations

Group presented recommendations for fully online degrees at Peralta, explaining the data-driven approach used to select programs. The team analyzed metrics including degree completion rates, online course success rates, enrollment numbers, and career outcomes to identify suitable

programs. Kellie noted that programs like business classes showed similar success rates between online and in-person formats, while ethnic studies showed significant differences, and emphasized the importance of programs where students could complete bachelor's degrees fully online.

Online Degree Program Recommendations

The group reviewed the presented recommendations for online degrees, focusing on associate's degrees in fields like psychology, sociology, and political science, with the goal of providing students high success rates in online classes while making general education requirements easily accessible through an online hub. The team discussed challenges with lab requirements for science courses, noting that while hybrid labs are improving, providing lab supplies to students at home remains costly and difficult. Kellie also outlined four main recommendation buckets: student learning, student success, student access, and infrastructure, emphasizing the need for faculty training on high-quality course design and delivery, as well as ensuring accessibility standards for all degrees and classes.

Online Degree Implementation Recommendations

The group reviewed the presented recommendations for implementing fully online degrees, emphasizing the need for comprehensive student support including financial aid, tutoring, counseling, and a centralized online hub with training resources. She outlined requirements for exam proctoring options, standardized processes, and equitable technology access through rental laptops and hotspots for students. They also discussed the need to create standard operating procedures and include analysis components to track student success, noting that this work ties into the district's requirement to develop a new distance education plan every three years for accreditation purposes.

Online Degree Implementation Planning

The leads explained the process for implementing fully online degrees, noting that the goal is to have at least one program launched by fall 2027, requiring decisions on which colleges will offer the degrees by this fall. The team will work with faculty and administrators to submit a "substantive change" to the accreditation agency (ACCJC) and ensure necessary support systems, such as online tutoring and admissions, are in place.