

Distance Learning and Student Services News

Supporting the learning needs
of Florida students.

Update from the Executive Director

Legislature – Distance Learning Fee

Now that the Legislative Session has ended I am sure everyone is busy sorting out the budget numbers, legislation and funded campus building initiatives. Perhaps of most immediate interest is the fate of the distance learning fee. The Legislature included modifications to the existing distance learning fee in the implementing bill ([HB 5003](#)). The modifying language can be found in lines 993-1040 of the bill. Overall, the language sets out a cap on the fee for both colleges and universities; however, there are differences. The colleges are limited to a \$15 per credit hour distance learning fee. The Universities are limited to a \$30 per credit hour AVERAGE distance learning fee. Further, you will note that the section limiting the charging of certain other fees when the distance learning fee is employed, and other constraining cost language has been eliminated for the colleges. While some modifications were made to that section of the fee language for state universities, the constraint on charging additional fees when the distance learning fee is used and the requirement that distance learning fee amounts not exceed the additional distance learning costs supported by the fee was maintained. The language is effective for one year so we will likely see a further discussion of the distance learning fee during the 2017 Legislative session.

As we continue to discuss the legislation that passed, further updates on specific issues of interest will be forthcoming.

Strategic Planning

Much work continues around the [Board of Governors Innovation and Online Committee](#).

Important Dates

Course Catalog Upload Dates:

Term Visibility Schedule:

- Fall: June 1
- Spring: October 1
- Summer: March 1

Upload Deadlines:

- Fall: June 15
- Spring: October 15
- Summer: March 15

Statistics

Course Catalog Uploads

Fall 2015 term had 18,297 courses uploaded. Spring 2016 term had 18,963 courses uploaded. There are 10,978 courses uploaded for Summer 2016 from 31 institutions (to verify if your institution has loaded Summer courses, please contact [Heather Thompson](#)).

FLVC Application Updates

- **Orange Grove**
Work continues on redesigning the Orange Grove to modernize the look and feel, and to accommodate the Board of Governor's strategic goals (to expand the Orange Grove shared resources offerings and Master Course offerings within the Orange Grove). Several open textbooks were recently added to the Orange Grove in the areas of U.S. History, Economics, Mathematics, Psychology, Sociology, and Biology. For this past quarter, the most popular textbooks in the Orange Grove were: [Principles of Epidemiology in Public Health Practice, 3rd Ed.](#), [A Spiral Workbook for Discrete Mathematics](#), [Liberte: A First Year French Textbook](#), [American History From Pre-Columbian to the New Millennium](#), [Advanced English Composition: Research for Writers Chapter 8: Argumentative Writing](#), and [Compsis at a Crossroads](#).
- **Transient Student Admission Application**
This quarter we added several new features to the TSAA including new search criteria for finding applications, the ability to upload Context Data from a file, and customized term designations. Visit the [TSAA page](#) on our website for details.

MyCareerShines

Participation in MyCareerShines is exceeding expectations. Since the launch in September, more than 100,000 Floridians have created accounts and the overwhelming majority of users are students.

As planned, the system was implemented in phases, beginning with Kuder Navigator® in early September and Kuder Journey® in early December. Today, millions of Floridians have access to the system, including:

- All students in middle and high school, including those in public, charter, and private schools and home education programs
- All students in public and private colleges, universities, and vocational and technical institutions
- All students in adult secondary education programs
- All job seekers, including clients of CareerSource

New Projects

Student Services of the Future Workgroup

Preparing today's students with the knowledge and skills to succeed in today's increasingly competitive global economy has never been more important. To achieve that goal, education leaders must harness the power of technology to deliver high quality instruction and student services. To support this effort, Distance Learning and Student Services is convening a group of creative, talented and innovative educators to develop a roadmap for the future of web-based services offered by FloridaShines, Florida's Student Hub of Innovative Educational Services. The roadmap will provide a strategic vision for the type of next-generation online services that will help colleges and universities graduate more students on time and on budget. The group is scheduled to begin work in April and complete the initial milestones this summer.

Events and Training

Past Events

- **SREB Webinar**
Mary Larson, Director of Student Access Programs and Services with the Southern Regional Education Board joined us March 4, 2016 to share information about State Authorization. Forty-two connections joined this beneficial presentation. To access the recording and handouts, visit <https://dlss.flvc.org/events/sreb-update-webinar>.
- **FloridaShines Webinar**
The FloridaVirtual Campus hosted a webinar on February 25, 2016. "Exploring FloridaShines: Career and Education Research Tools" was presented by Nashla Dawahre and Brenda Rutten (FLVC). The purpose of the webinar was to learn about free tools for libraries that will assist students to explore colleges and universities, discover degree programs, plan for a career and find a job. You can watch a demonstration of MyCareerShines, a comprehensive education and career planning system that includes assessments of interests and skills, career exploration and resume creation tools. Visit the [FloridaShines Webinar page](#) of our website for more information and to access the recorded materials.

Upcoming Events

Members Council Meeting

June 1-2, 2016: MCDLSS Executive Committee and Quarterly Meeting, Orlando, Florida

Members Council

- [Minutes for the 2015 meetings](#) have been posted to the website.
- The Distance Learning and Student Services Staff Resources website has been updated to reflect the new structure of the Members Council. The Members Council is comprised of one presidentially-appointed representative from each institution. There are three new groups that currently provide insight and expertise on services in the state: Access Workgroup, Affordability Workgroup, and Quality Workgroup. For a current list of members, minutes, meeting information, and additional materials, visit the [Advisory Groups](#) section of our website.