

## Distance Learning and Student Services

### Executive Director's Update

November 2015

#### New Member Council Workgroups

- During the October meeting of the member's council, new workgroups were created around the concepts of affordability, access and quality. Each of the workgroups determined a number of objectives for activities between now and the end of the fiscal year. Listservs have been created for each workgroup and an FLVC staff liaison has been assigned to support the ongoing workplan. If you have not joined one of the workgroups, please let us know so we can provide you with the background information and the details of any planned meetings. Current membership lists for the workgroups are attached. Additional information will be posted to the DLSS website.

#### SARA/SECRRRA Update

- On Monday, November 2nd, Alabama, Georgia, Maryland, Mississippi and Texas were approved by the Southern Regional Education Board to join the State Authorization Reciprocity Agreement (SARA). These states bring the number of participating states to 34, with over half the SREB states participating in SARA. As originally stated, SREB will announce the dissolve date of SREB's Electronic Campus Regional Reciprocity Agreement (SECRRRA) in January 2016 since over half of the member states have transitioned. The SECRRRA dissolve date is expected to be at least 12 to 18 months away in order to allow time for the remaining members to join SARA. Discussions are underway regarding draft legislation for consideration by the 2016 Legislature to allow Florida to participate in SARA.

#### Spring 2016 Course Catalog Update

- At this time **35** institutions have loaded courses for Spring 2016. Please update the catalog as soon as possible. As always, please let [us](#) know if you need any assistance with logging into the system.

#### Symposium Update

- The 2016 Symposium *The State of Adaptive Learning: Taking Florida to the Next Level* will be rescheduled. Unfortunately, all of the major speakers and many state participants were already committed to attend several national meetings during the same week of our original date. Updated program and hotel information will be shared soon!

#### Board of Governors Distance Learning Strategic Plan

- On November 5<sup>th</sup>, the Board of Governors Innovation and Online Committee reviewed and approved their Strategic Plan for Online Learning. The presentations and video are available online. (see [agenda and materials](#)) [Meeting Video](#)

#### DLSS staff website

- The DLSS website went live at 10 a.m. on November 13, 2015. You can visit the site through this [link](#).

**Common LMS**

- Currently work has entered into a negotiation phase. Additional information will be provided as it is received.

**Student Services Focus Group**

- Nashla Dawahre will begin identifying student services staff to serve as a focus group for discussions involving the evolution of student support services that are provided through the FloridaShines site. Many of the advising services have not changed much since their initial development through FACTS.org. New technologies continue to emerge, student requests for services increase or change and institutional support needs have continued to evolve, the time has come to review existing services in light current student and institutional needs. The focus group will assist the FLVC in determining how best to address current institutional and student support needs. The goal will be to develop concepts for the next generation of student support services provided through FloridaShines in partnership with Florida colleges and universities. For further information or to recommend someone for inclusion in the workgroup, please contact Nashla Dawahre or John Opper.