DE Survey Questions

1. What are the implications of online/hybrid instruction for your discipline?

2. If the college offered online or hybrid degrees would your discipline offer a class or component of that degree?

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Department Chair Feedback to Online/Hybrid Classes

Child Development

In June 2009 Child Development District –Wide identified courses that could be offered online or hybrid. Students are requesting online classes. Some students participate more actively online than in the classroom setting. Online classes meet the needs of working students and those challenged by transportation. Online classes offer opportunities for enhanced content through the many varied online resources. It increases classroom space on campus. Face to Face relationship building is eliminated which is critical to Child Development. Students online will not receive the exposure to and preparation for the interpersonal communication skills necessary for quality teaching. There are concerns about monitoring students' involvement, cheating opportunities. Campuses that are promoting online offerings may not listen to departmental recommendations. Faculty may not be prepared for, nor interested in this delivery system. There are concerns that many students will be "left out" if courses go online exclusively.

English

The English Chair expressed interest in offering one face to face and one online. Otherwise to offer more online classes at the expense of offering fewer on campus classes, reduces the amount of classes for on campus. English would offer upper level classes online. Many schools do not offer these classes and English could establish a niche market. There needs to be a campus policy about the balance between online and on campus classes. Campus classes should not be put in jeopardy or be replaced by online or hybrid classes. The EPC and the Tech Master Plan could plan for increase enrollment and the number of new online classes.

There are a lot of misconceptions of online classes. More education is needed. One in four classes in California. is taken online. The success rate in online classes
does go down. But use of more interactive resources like social media could increase the success rate by 10%. If we do more online classes we need to do it smart with a lot of training. If accessibility is part of our mission statement, then we need to respect our mission statement and embrace more online/hybrid classes. The college has to take lead and set standards, coordination, planning. No one is entitled to teach online if they are not properly trained. It is a real responsibility to teach online and requires extensive training and college support services to make it high quality.

There needs to be a certain spirit of integrity in the department which should I set standards with training. Online should have a weekly video cam greeting. Multiple use of discussion boards should be switched out for voice threads, avatars, control panel, more active with visual and audio portions. The teachers’ presence online needs to be more visual and more than just text to make the class more interactive, and to help to build a community. Also there needs to be a creative element in each online class. Labs for science need to be done on campus and not online.

**English as a Second Language**

Caution should be taken that we not undercut our mission to provide educational opportunities to all members of our target area. If we want to offer an online English degree are we willing to sacrifice the classes we need to meet the demands of our face-to-face on campus students.

The decision to support an entirely online degree is under the purview of the EPC who needs to review the matter. Also the future planning ramifications should be included within the current Ed Master Plan. ESL language instruction needs to be face-to-face. That being said---WLAC is developing a totally online ESL Program to be offered to Chinese students beginning Spring 2011.

**Family & Consumer Studies**

Family and Consumer Studies sees online and hybrid as future for our students in those classes that are not labs. Lecture classes are done well online such as Sanitation (FCS 50) and Nutrition (FCS 21). Classes that require labs like Interior Design 103 cannot be done online.

**Health and PE**
All of PE classes should be done on campus, and not online. For Health, currently they are offered online. Health and PE is interested in developing some hybrid classes – either Health 11 or Health 8. Some colleges (Trade) offer PE online, but the Health and PE District Discipline Committee frowns about such a practice, and recommends that PE be done in person.

**Math & Computer Science**

Remedial courses would not do as well as say Statistics online. Math might want to limit our focus at elementary transferable courses such as Math 227.

Remedial students would best be served with brief, short term, preparatory online class with very narrow focus. Examples would be: placement exam and preparation or refresher courses for students who may meet a prerequisite but have not taken a math class in some time. Offering online classes would have to be a hybrid rather than fully online. One of the Math faculty recently taught an ITV Math class and she was satisfied that the structure, in particular in-class exams, insured student accountability.

Any online classes must be part of the math course offerings and developed and articulated by the Math department.

Math is currently developing a hybrid Math 227 class along the lines of the ITV class, and it is probably a year and a half to two years away from being offered.

It seems online courses and/or degrees are inevitable, but it will be a few years, so perhaps we should start planning.

Below are advantages and disadvantages of online classes:

**Advantages**

a) Increased access of courses to students  
b) Increased enrollment  
c) Increased hiring as new faculty may be needed

**Disadvantages:**

a) Control of who takes the exams if the course is entirely online  
b) Need for additional support services; e.g. online tutors
c) Need of additional funding for training of faculty and tutors  
d) Need to (re)write new PNCRs  

Limitations:  
a) Online/hybrid courses should be limited to lower courses  
b) There should be a limit on the number of courses that can be taken online  
c) Lack of training of faculty and tutors in online offerings  
d) Lack of funds to do the job right  

Math would be interested to start by offering a trial course as a hybrid if college is willing to fund the increased expenses (hiring and training of faculty and tutors). Hybrid classes will increase the number of students because students living farther from Sylmar and who work full time will have opportunity to take classes at our college. More and more school are offering online classes nowadays and we don’t want to fail behind.

**PACE**

PACE hybrid courses have been very successful. Business 5 and Education 203 are the only hybrid classes currently offered in PACE and PACE would like to expand its hybrid offerings because of the convenience they offer for working adult students. PACE finds online classes to be an integral part of their department

**Social Sciences**

Lack of classroom availability means that Mission will have to provide other ways to serve the students at LAMC and distance education meets their needs. Distance education either completely online or through hybrid means the student is offered more flexibility as to when they attend class and how.

The budget cuts have impacted all the disciplines directly by adding to the number of students we serve per sections. Therefore technology has made it possible to support more students not just with communication. But as ways to posting handouts, on campus resources such as student services information, a place to post grades that are private, areas where discussions forums can take place that time does not permit in the classroom. As well as a place for students to take exams or complete assignments online so that more lecture can occur in the classroom.
Students today are already utilizing the technology in their everyday lives, therefore delivering education in a non-traditional format will be attractive to students who are already trying to maintain balance between their educational goals and their private and professional lives.

**Sciences**

Both department chairs believed that labs must be done on campus. However, such new programs as Environmental Science may well be both on campus/online or the hybrid format.

The Physical Science Chair said that possibly an entirely online AA degree (non Science) might be developed and could incorporate Geography online as the science requirement. Geography may or may not have a lab requirement, and if so, then the department chair that at least the lab component must be either on campus or hybrid (at least part of it on campus).

**Suggested Classes – Hybrid & Online**

**Hybrid**
CD 10 (hybrid-CPR/First Aid Practice component). Some ESL classes could be put in hybrid format. The upper level ESL writing classes could probably put a lot of the discreet grammar instruction online, English 21 and 28, English 102,103, Health 8 and 11, and Speech

**Online**
FCS - Marriage and Family, FCS 50,21, Gerontology, CD 11, CD 60, CD 62, CD 38
2 online art classes, English 203, 205, 206, 210

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