

EM Technology/Distance Learning Committee Meeting & Recommendation Summaries

- What is the role and purpose of distance learning in the future of ODU? If it is a priority and should be developed, what resources will be needed to support the growth?
- Are we offering the right programs at a distance?
- Do we still have a competitive advantage in distance learning?
- Faculty workload and compensation for distance learning courses.

Recommendations:

- Develop a new bottom-up planning structure with a top-down framework for distance education. Maturity of Internet technologies, growth in availability of broadband, and increased competition in distance education, requires the development of a new planning structure for distance learning programs, the use of distance learning technologies, and services provided to students. The framework requires full institutional commitment, structure for program development, academic standards, faculty support with a workload policy, technical infrastructure, and student support. With a framework in place, each academic unit would develop a strategy and operational plan that matches enrollments to institutional goals, faculty resources, technologies, and market demands. The initial step in developing a new planning structure is to conduct a readiness assessment. The readiness assessment along with a clear mission and vision for distance learning will help determine future direction and gaps in university operations, resources, services, and service levels.