FPC Technology and Distance Education Committee
Committee Report
2012-2013 Academic Year

Official Members:
- Sondra Smith
- Barbra Pace
- Jeanne Repetto
- Stephanie Smith
- Albert D Ritzhaupt(Chair)
- Linda Eldridge (Liaison)

Other Members:
- Ric TFelt
- Tom Dana
- John Donaldson
- Daniel Stewart Mccoy
- Trace Choulat
- David Labor
- Aaron Thomas

Background: The FPC Technology and Distance Education committee had a charge from the previous academic year to carry out a technology needs assessment of the faculty with in the College of Education. The previous year, Dr. Albert Ritzhaupt served as chair upon the leaving of Dr. Cathy Cavanaugh. This year, Dr. Albert Ritzhaupt served as chair again based on the recommendations of the committee.

Current Year:The committee this year had several important objectives – all of which are interrelated. The first was the review of the US News Best Online Programs report. Starting last year, US News began ranking online programs in education. UF College of Education was ranked 18th this year, and it was our belief that we could score higher in the rankings. Our goal was to examine the ranking system used by US News and determine what could be done to rank better.

Our second objective was to conduct a technology Needs Assessment for the College of Education faculty. This charge came from the previous academic year. In response, a survey was generated to gather this important information. The survey was released to the faculty early in the Fall semester. The data was analyzed and report was generated and reviewed by FPC. The report was strongly endorsed. It was recommended that the two organizational structures supporting technology needs in the college review the results and recommendations and develop an associated action plan. We are still waiting for this action plan.

Our third objective was to revise the working document for Advisory Guidelines for Distance Education to the FPC Committee. This document was generated two years ago by the Distance Education Task Force.We decided to wait on this revision as we have just determined the university is drafting a university-wide policy that will affect out unit.

Our fourth objective is currently being discussed by the committee. Several faculty have requested clarification on the supports of external funding based on IDC. We will be discussing this matter, and inviting Dr. Adams to the committee to discuss in greater detail. Our goal is to develop a set of guidelines that can be used by faculty in the planning of grants.

Next Year: In the upcoming year, we will address the following: 1) we will update the working document for Advisory Guidelines for Distance Education to incorporate the findings from the Needs Assessment and the US News Best Online Programs report, and the guidelines from the university-wide distance education initiative; 2) we will continue to discuss and create guidelines for external funding and IDC for faculty in conjunction with the technology offices in the College of Education and the Office of Educational Research. The goal will be to have the document for the technology and grants IDC written by the Fall semester, and the policy document updated by the Spring semester after the university has formally adopted their policy.