

VII. STANDING COMMITTEES

A. Academic and Student Affairs Committee

Extension of the Online Course Pilot Project with the \$350 Fee Financial Model

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

On February 19, 2009, the Regents granted approval for a pilot project to charge UW undergraduate students an additional fee of \$350 per course for online classes. The \$350 fee funds online course development, instruction and administrative costs of the classes and assumes at least 40 students/course. We would like to extend the pilot using this financial model in the 2010-2011 academic year.

BACKGROUND:

The experiment hopes to gauge the student demand and the instructional viability of online learning from student and instructor perspectives without additional cost to the State. The extension of this pilot would help us determine the usefulness of online courses in a broader spectrum of disciplines, its role in large lecture classes and the differences between its effectiveness in lower- and upper-division courses.

Based upon enrollments in the classes and the survey results, the autumn 2009 classes seemed quite successful. We offered seven online learning classes on a fee-basis through the time schedule (see the attached list). Students paid an additional \$350 fee for these courses. Six of the classes had an enrollment limit of 40 students and attracted an average of 39.5 students. The seventh course, ESRM 100, registered 332 students.

Overall, the students reacted positively toward the classes.

- The majority of respondents (76.2%) indicated that the online learning course as a whole was “good” or “excellent.”
- 80.5% of respondents said they would recommend this online course to someone else.
- Students indicated that flexibility and scheduling were the two primary reasons for taking an online course instead of a classroom course.
- 67.1% indicated that the effectiveness of the online learning format was “good” or “excellent.”
- 57.8% of respondents said the intellectual challenge presented in the online course was “average” relative to other college course they have

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taken. 28.6% said the intellectual challenge was “higher” relative to other college courses.

- 40.5% said their involvement in the course was “higher” relative to other college courses (doing assignments, participating in discussions, etc.). 47.7% said that their involvement in the course was “average” relative to other college course they have taken.
- A majority of students would rather not pay the extra fee, believing that online learning courses costs less.

Faculty had the same positive comments about the classes.

- The majority of instructors (5 out of 6 or 83%) said the online course as a whole was “good” or “excellent.”
- 5 out of 6 instructors (83%) indicated that the effectiveness of the online learning format was “good” or “excellent.”
- 4 out of 6 instructors (67%) said they would teach a group-start online course again. The remaining 2 instructors answered “maybe.”
- 4 out of 6 instructors (67%) said they would recommend the teaching of the online course to another instructor.
- 5 out of 6 respondents said that the online course was “about the same” as teaching a classroom course.
- 3 out of 6 instructors said the online course required “more time” compared to teaching a classroom course, while the other three thought the time required was “about the same” as a classroom course.

Given these reactions, the Provost authorized an extension of the pilot for spring 2010 of seven classes. We hope to further extend the project to the 2010-2011 academic year with a total of 25 courses, using the current financial model. Once again, neither the students nor the faculty would be forced to participate in online learning.

Attachment

Extension of the Online Course Pilot Project with the \$350 Fee Financial Model

Online Learning Pilot

Fall, 2009

Cumulative Enrollments	EOS Reg #	Campus SLN #
COM 202	103779	19472
COM 340	103780	19473
COM 389	103781	19474
AES 389	103782	19476
WOMEN 389	103783	19475
ENGL 310	103785	13211
ENGL 477	103786	13248
GEOG 102	103787	19470
ESRM 100	103784	13470

Enrollment limits* & Enrollments

Campus limit	Campus enrollment	EO limit	EO enrollment	Total limit	Total Enrollment
39	38	3	2	42	40
38	37	2	2	40	39
24	22	1	1	25	23
5	5	1	1	6	6
10	9	1	1	11	10
38	35	2	2	40	37
38	38	2	2	40	40
41	40	2	2	43	42
385	319	15	13	400	332
618	543	29	26	647	569

Totals:

*Enrollment limits as of 9/15/09

The classes highlighted in yellow indicate one class offered by three departments. Limits indicate how many people can register for this class according to its named department; ditto

Green highlighting indicates where class limits were reached.

Spring, 2010

Cumulative Enrollments	EOS Reg #	Campus SLN #
COM 340	109186	19134
COM 389	109195	19138
AES 389	109196	19139
WOMEN 389	109197	19140
COM 440	109189	19064
POL S 461	109190	19065
GEOG 102	109184	19133
ESRM 100	108845	13363
PSYCH 206	109192	19135
STAT 220	109194	19137

Enrollment limits* & Enrollments

Campus limit	Campus enrollment	EO limit	EO enrollment	Total limit	Total enrollment
41	41	4	4	45	45
27	24	3	3	30	27
5	5	2	2	7	7
10	10	1	1	11	11
30	30	2	2	32	32
11	11	2	2	13	13
41	41	4	4	45	45
600	437	15	1	615	438
41	43	4	1	45	44
41	41	4	4	45	45
844	686	41	16	885	702

*Enrollment limits last updated 3/3/10

Enrollments as of 3/17/10

The classes highlighted in yellow indicate one class offered by three departments. Limits indicate how many people can register for this class according to its named department; ditto enrollments.

The classes highlighted in orange indicate one class offered by two departments. Limits indicate how many people can register for this class according to its named department; ditto enrollments.

Green highlighting indicates where class limits were reached.