**Distance Education Committee Minutes**

**March 23, 2012**

Dr. Terry Craig, Donald Poffenberger, John Reho, Delilah Ryan, Pat Stroud, Kim Patterson, Bob Guy,

Van Slider , Pam Sharma (Chair)

Guests: Dr. Vicki Riley

August 2011 minutes were approved as presented. Minutes are available on the Distance Education Committee Webpage.

* Quality Matters Rubric: Kim Patterson informed the committee that WVNCC is now affiliated with Quality Matters as part of a statewide initiative.  Roxann Humbert, the HEPC Statewide Director of Higher Education e-Learning and Quality Matters is invited to conduct a one day training on “Applying the Quality Matters Rubric”. Goals of the training are to get everyone informed about and trained in applying the QM rubric to online courses, and to get interested faculty be certified as peer viewer. Committee expressed concerns about not having information or discussion on the topic prior to today’s meeting. Concerns were also raised about the cost; $ 900 per course or $ 450 if it instate. Given the fact that a large number of online courses are taught by the adjunct faculty. Kim indicated that the goal is to get a group of faculty trained to conduct the review in-house. The courses reviewed in-house will not be eligible for QM approval.
* Quality Matters training schedule: Kim Patterson reminded the faculty that Applying the Quality Matters training is scheduled on May 15 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. There were eight faculty members who signed up for the training. Some faculty expressed concerns about the date since it was a day after the faculty contract expired and during the week the faculty members were teaching the intersession courses. It was also inquired if the training will be available for the online faculty who are unable to attend the scheduled training.
* Virtual College Initiative – Kim Patterson

Vicki indicated the State is in the process of developing Virtual College in partnership with Person publishing. The goal of the Virtual Community and Technical College is to provide alternative educational opportunities for non-traditional students; students seeking early graduation; students needing classes not offered each term but needed to graduate; workforce development. A task force is working on identifying a comprehensive model. Details will be forthcoming.

* Blackboard 9.1 and summer concerns: Kim Patterson indicated all online/hybrid courses taught during the summer will be available on New Blackboard system (9.1). Some of the faculty members were concerned about rolling the content to the new system. Kim indicated that the content may be rolled into the courses but faculty will have to check the format, links and other course related activities to make sure everything is displayed the way it should be.

Meeting adjourned at 3:25 p.m.