



The University of Georgia®

Teaching Academy

April 5, 2013

Jere W. Morehead
Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost
203 Administration Building
CAMPUS

Dear Provost Morehead:

We served as facilitators for the breakout group devoted to **online learning** during the 2013 Academic Affairs Faculty Symposium. We are writing on behalf of that group to provide two recommendations for enhancing online learning at the University of Georgia.

RECOMMENDATION #1

The working group held lengthy discussions and, in the process, recognized there are many complex issues surrounding online learning at UGA that still need to be resolved. These questions touch on curriculum, standards, resources, technology, and assessment, among others. The group felt that given the variety, complexity and interconnectedness of the issues, UGA needs a body composed of faculty, staff, and administrators who can develop expertise on the complexities of online learning and swiftly and effectively address questions. Therefore:

The group recommends that the University create an advisory board for the Office of Online Learning. Representatives on this board should include faculty interested in online learning; staff from the Center for Teaching and Learning, the Office of Online Learning, and Enterprise Information Technology Services; along with other relevant stakeholders. The charge for this group should include the following components at the very least:

- Identify, evaluate, and prioritize audiences for online learning, including undergraduate students, graduate students, veterans and active-duty military personnel, alumni, and friends of the University;
- Identify barriers to online instruction and suggest strategies for overcoming these barriers as possible;
- Explore ways to increase financial support for online learning, with an emphasis on training and incentivizing faculty for development of online courses;
- Develop quality standards, guidelines, and best practices regarding the development, integration, instruction, and assessment of online courses;
- Communicate information regarding the board's activities to units on campus.

RECOMMENDATION #2

The group recommends that the University, in partnership with the aforementioned advisory group, create a pilot Massive Open Online Course (MOOC) to be offered spring 2014. This pilot MOOC should be developed with the goal of showcasing a particular subject/program that is unique to UGA and will prove attractive to prospective students, alumni and potential donors. A MOOC may be another way for the University to actively engage alumni, providing an opportunity for them to share experiences and expertise with others interested in whatever the selected topic(s) may be. By re-engaging these individuals, the University can expose graduates to UGA's innovative outreach and provide yet another avenue that may be attractive for donations.

We thank you for consideration of these recommendations.

Sincerely,

Kris Biesinger
Interim Director, Office of Online Learning

Ann Hollified
Department Head, Telecommunications
Grady College

Cc: Josef Broder, Associate Dean and Academic Symposium Program Chair

Online Learning Break-Out Group Members:

Tom Bramorski
Alan Dorsey
Silvia Giraud
Leslie Gordon
Itai Himelboim, Spokesperson
Laura Jolly
Vicki Michaelis
Toni Miles
Craig Piercy
Siddarth Savadatti
Kyle Tschepikow, Recorder