CCC Resolution on the Current Proposed CCLE Plan

The CCC supports the concept of the collaborative common learning environment and is willing to take a central role in its development at UCLA. Given our extensive experience with course management systems and related technologies, we believe that this project would greatly benefit by having greater CCC involvement in its management, including decisions on resource allocations and the hiring and supervision of project personnel. We suggest that the CCC work with OIT to develop a detailed management plan for this project. The CCC believes we are ideally suited for this role as our faculty and students will be the main customers of this system and we ask that we be given a chance to play a major part in its development.

While supporting the general principles of CCLE, the CCC has concerns regarding the CCLE Business Plan that was presented to Steve Olsen and Scott Waugh. We provide the following comments:

1. CCLE was endorsed by several component groups in the IT governance process, but these groups did not review any specific plan, only the general concept. While the proposed budget and staffing may be based on the environment found at other universities, we feel that it may not be optimal for UCLA, and may no longer be valid. Technology advances are very rapid and UCLA should put forward a plan for a CCLE that allows us to evolve quickly. We believe that the current plan would benefit from further review and discussion through the governance process prior to being submitted for funding.

2. We support the concept of collaboratively developing campus-wide systems, but note that course management is quite well developed at UCLA and currently meets the needs of many units. We are concerned that too encompassing a project in this particular area may be unused by most schools and divisions and this could adversely affect support for future collaborative projects between units. Instead, the CCC would like to work closely with OIT to identify, prioritize, and implement collaborative projects such as the CCLE that would enhance instruction and research at UCLA to ensure that we are creating an additional academic infrastructure that will be used by those units already providing these services.

3. We strongly support increased funding for the investigation and adoption of new instructional technologies. However, a change in existing course management systems would place substantial costs on local academic units. We believe these costs should be reflected in the proposed plan. Future versions must take into account the down-stream costs of implementation. The CCC clearly understands the costs associated with instruction and research support for each of their units and can guide the successful implementation of a CCLE while ensuring that existing essential services are not overlooked.

4. While the CCC supports moving forward with a pilot collaborative course management project, we believe that the current proposal requests considerably more resources and FTE than are desirable at this early stage of the project.

5. Specifically, we support the purchase of equipment, the hiring of a collaboratively managed CCLE coordinator or manager, an instructional designer, and a system administrator/programmer. We think it is premature to go beyond this level of resource expenditure at this time. While we understand that there may be a future need for additional resources for a large-scale implementation of Moodle, many of us already run Moodle, and it is our experience that one of the great aspects of the software is that it is a relatively simple solution, and it requires relatively few resources to implement at the unit level.

6. The proposed CCLE business plan mentions the “UCLA accreditation theme.” The CCC takes accreditation requirements very seriously and can be proactive in technological enhancements that meet both UCLA and individual unit accreditation needs.
7. In considering the section of the plan proposing the creation of an associate vice-chancellor and director as well as a fairly large unit to administer Moodle, we feel the success of this project will depend upon the wide use and acceptance of the technology, and should be driven bottom up by the needs of the faculty and students. The need for the creation of top down positions should be considered by the governance process only when the future potential of a common learning environment has been fully established.

The CCC is asking for the opportunity to take a leadership role in a technical area in which we are experts and to assist the campus in providing a common service and support for that service. We have first hand knowledge of the customers that the system will support; therefore we believe that we are strategically placed to implement a successful plan. If UCLA is to move forward in this area we need to work as a team and we offer our services to that end.

Resolution Passed: 17 in favor, 1 abstained

In Favor: Arts and Architecture, Dentistry, Education and Information Science, Law, Life Sciences, Management, Medicine, Nursing, Office of Information Technology, Physical Sciences, Public Health, Public Affairs, Engineering and Applied Sciences, Social Sciences, Theater, Film and Television, University Extension

Abstained: Humanities