“Learn where you live”
A Distributed Learning Strategy for the UofS Senate
October 19, 2013
What is distributed learning?

- Umbrella term
  - Activities of all sorts – distance or “off-campus”, traditional classroom-based and virtual

- Instructional model*
  - Instructors, students, content can be located in different, non-centralized locations
  - Instruction and learning can be independent of time and place

* Saltzberg & Polyson, 1995
Our goals for distributed learning...

- Continue to expand the presence + impact of the UofS throughout the province and beyond
- Deliver consistently high quality education using most appropriate DL approaches
- Achieve a student body reflecting the diversity of the people of Saskatchewan
Using this strategy we will...

- Focus on degree-credit learning
- Ensure that student learning needs are recognized as developmental (e.g., “dependent” stage)
- Create a financially sustainable initiative
What are the implementation steps?

(1) Create full undergraduate degree program options for direct entry programs (*Priority #1*)

- At least one complete program in each of the main UG areas of learning
  - Humanities & Fine Arts, Social Science, Science, Business, Health Sciences
    - Nursing
    - Education
(1) Full degree program options (UG)

- Delineate all activity at the UG level
  - UofS and surrounding institutions
- Assessment of market demand and consultation with external partners
- Identify gaps – what needs to be developed?
- Identify champions for programs
- Implement/Evaluate
(2) Pathways to complete requirements for non-direct entry (*Priority #2*)

- Delineate what is already possible
- Use analysis and consultation to identify non-direct entry (professional programs) in high demand
Implementation Steps

(3) Student access to core level of support and service

- Delineate what needs to be on the list of core support and service
- Explore how these services can be delivered (and by whom)
(4) Faculty interest and capacity

- Articulate best practices for faculty in distributed learning
  - Provide instructional design support
- Create a financial model that incents UofS colleges to participate
(5) Partnerships and Infrastructure

- Selecting programs – strategic and valued
- Necessary technical infrastructure and supports
  - Regional Colleges, First Nations
- Improve stability and bandwidth (networks)
- Identify capital needs
(6) Professional post-graduate programs

- On-line or blended (face-to-face + on-line)
- Start from current practice and build following analysis and consultation (*Innovative*)

- Examples:
  - Education (several areas)
  - Nursing
  - Northern Governance and Development
  - International Trade
Who will lead implementation?

- Distributed Learning Governance Committee
  - Coordinate activity and provide advice
  - Chaired by the VPTL
    - Faculty members (DL-active colleges)
    - Support Units
Questions?

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