

Faculty Senate **Online Education Task Force** (Appointed effective July 1, 2013, by 2012-2013 Senate Chair Salvatore March and 2013-2014 Senate Chair-elect Donald Brady)

Rationale

Recent developments in online education present faculty with opportunities as well as challenges that are potentially consequential for the future of the modern university. As this transformation continues to accelerate, it is critical for the faculty to be proactively engaged in developing Vanderbilt's online-education policies and practices. A Faculty Senate task force—comprising a representative mix of Senate and non-Senate faculty members—will facilitate the focus and coordination necessary to anticipate and respond to issues affecting the rights, roles, and responsibilities of the faculty with regard to their teaching-related efforts. This task force will work in a role advisory to and complementary of the efforts of the administration in this area.

Charge

Broadly speaking, the Faculty Senate Online Education Task Force shall advise the Faculty Senate on

1. the university's online education strategy and its effective implementation consistent with faculty rights, roles, and responsibilities, and
2. faculty preparedness for participating in and contributing to online education.

In addition, it shall develop recommendations specifically for: a) clarifying the policies for intellectual property rights in online education, b) fostering an open equitable process for the selection of faculty and courses, c) evaluating any proposed plan for recognizing online courses for credit, including courses offered through professional Master's programs, d) consideration of how online courses should be factored in to the normal teaching load of faculty, and e) engaging faculty colleagues across the university on issues related to online education.

Given the unpredictable trajectory of online education, the taskforce shall have the flexibility to take up emergent issues related to online education that it deems significant from a faculty viewpoint; for example, the Task Force may want to consider faculty interests as related to the use of online content to replace traditional textbooks in on-campus classrooms. The task force will be charged with providing, at minimum, quarterly updates to the Senate on its progress on the issues above.

Composition

The task force will be chaired by Ranga Ramanujam (Owen) and will include Doug Fisher, the director of the Vanderbilt Institute for Digital Learning, as an *ex officio* member. Initially, the task force should expect to have a two-year duration, with the possibility of extension or revision as deemed necessary after Senate deliberations.

The following are some possible guidelines and considerations for putting together the rest of the taskforce.

- 1) The taskforce should be no larger than 12-15 members (including Ranga & Doug).

- 2) It should have a mix of:
 - a. Senators and non-Senate faculty
 - b. Faculty from various colleges on campus
 - c. Faculty representing diverse interests (e.g., natural sciences, history, education, humanities, medical sciences)
 - d. Faculty with experience, interest, and familiarity with relevant issues (e.g., online education; faculty rights and responsibilities; and administrative policies and processes for courses)
- 3) Potential members to be identified in consultation with the Deans and the Faculty Senate Executive Committee.