Distance Education Committee

April Meeting Minutes

The monthly meeting of the NOCE Distance Education Committee was held on Thursday, April 9, 2026, at 3:00 p.m. in room 1014 at the Anaheim Campus and as a videoconferencing meeting for committee members whose location was listed on the agenda.

DE Committee Chair Jennifer Carey called the meeting to order at 3:03 p.m.

Advisory Members: Mirwais Azizi and Karla Frizler

Non-Advisory Members: Jennifer Carey, Danielle Carlson, Jennifer Oo, Bryan Reyna, Souzan Sahakian, and Casey Sousa

Student Representative: Gayathri Rathnasamy

I. Approval of Agenda

a) Casey S. moved to approve the agenda as is and Jennifer O. seconded. The motion passed, and the agenda was passed unanimously by advisory and non-advisory members.

II. Approval of March 5, 2026, meeting minutes

a) Danielle C. moved to approve the minutes as is and Bryan R. seconded. The motion passed, and the meeting minutes were passed unanimously by advisory and non-advisory members.

III. Announcements & Public Comment

a) Jennifer C. discussed that Plenary is this weekend, and there are three resolutions that may affect online teaching/learning (if they pass).
   i. 105.03 S26 Supporting Systemwide Academic Integrity and Infrastructure for Distance Education in the Age of Agentic Artificial Intelligence
   ii. 105.04 S26 Estimating Student Savings and Standardizing OER/ZTC Savings Estimates
   iii. 108.03 S26 Ensuring Accessibility and Universal Design for Learning Across Instructional Modalities
   iv. These are available in the ASCCC Resolutions Packet
b) Karla F. requested a dean's email listserv for timesheet management.
c) Karla F. shared that Opening Day will be August 6th and Faculty Flex will be August 7th.
d) Jennifer O. shared that there will most likely be a PE Contract for the DE Committee Chair and others to assist with the Course Dog implementation.

IV. DE Chair's Report, Jennifer Carey

a) OTC Conference: Designing the Future of Online Learning: Human Element, Ethics, Innovation, and AI . Dates: June 23–25, 2026 (Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday) at the Anaheim Hilton
   i. Early Bird Pricing – $549 (Nov 1, 2025 - **April 14, 2026**) Registration – Online Teaching Conference
b) NOCE will host a Watch Party for the CCC Reclaiming Joy: Human-First Teaching in the AI Era on April 17 @8:30 to 3 pm. Register here for the Attend on Campus option

c) Cal OER Conference – Exploring the Open Frontier: AI and Emerging Technologies in OER. July 29-31st. $25 online

V. Unfinished Business

a. DE Plan Goals, Review/Discussion – Jennifer Carey
   i. Jennifer C. will be looking at the DE Plan and DE Faculty Handbook over the summer and will have some suggestions for changes and updates on our first DE meeting on Sept 3.
b. NOCE OTC Recertification/Action – Jennifer Carey
   i. Jennifer C. proposed removing the 5 Day Challenges as possible recertification courses as they are too hard to track and not to the same standard as the other options. The motion to revise the document carried unanimously by both advisory and non-advisory votes in favor. Jennifer will present to the Senate in May and will request a special meeting to vote on it before the end of the semester.
c. DE Addenda Updates/Action – Jennifer Carey
   i. The group discussed removing "Correspondence as an emergency contingency" mode of delivery from the DE addenda. Jennifer C. confirmed that correspondence classes are not currently available and would not impact operations. The motion to revise the addenda carried unanimously with both advisory and non-advisory votes in favor. Jennifer C. will present to the Senate in May and will request a special meeting to vote on it before the end of the semester.
d. OER Planning Workgroup/Discussion – Jennifer Carey
   i. Jennifer C. discussed that faculty representatives from each program will be identified for PE contracts to meet over the summer.
e. Emergency Modality Flexibility Policy, Second Read – Jennifer Carey/Mirwais Azizi
   i. Jennifer C. discussed revisions to the document, including the positive attendance accounting and details of the T3 response. Karla F. motioned to table the document until Martha Gutierrez and Deb Perkins can provide feedback. The motion carried unanimously by both advisory and non-advisory votes in favor.

VI. New Business

a. Fall 2026 NOCE Online Student Survey, Discussion – Jennifer Carey/Mirwais Azizi
   i. The committee discussed options for collecting student feedback on online learning experiences, with Mirwais proposing a mix of methods including surveys, focus groups, and potentially multilingual surveys. Danielle C. and Souzan S. highlighted challenges with surveying ESL students, suggesting that focus groups might be more effective and that surveys should be simplified for better comprehension. The group agreed to focus on collecting data from current online students rather than all students, and to consider having teachers administer surveys to their students to improve response rates. Mirwais and Jennifer will meet separately to develop a plan for the survey and focus groups.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:21 p.m.