

# JMU Online Teaching & Learning Committee

## Spring 2023

### **Membership:**

**Chair:** Andrea Adams

**Members:** Andreas Broscheid, Audrey Burnett, Jim Bywater, Sarah Cheverton, Greg Hackbarth, Bill Hartman, Juhong Christie Liu, Sarah MacDonald, Laura Miller, Valerie Schoolcraft

### **Charge:**

The Online Teaching and Learning Committee provides structure and coordination for initiatives that support success in online teaching and learning. Committee work is informed by and provides input on evolving decisions regarding JMU's online learning strategy.

Specific areas of focus for the committee include:

- Course development and instructional design
- Faculty professional development and support
- Online program development
- Student support and success
- Technology infrastructure and support

The committee reports to and informs the Online Identity and Direction Committee (housed within University Studies), while working in collaboration with the Online Virginia Network (OVN) Committee and the Online Policy, Accreditation and Compliance Office (also housed within University Studies).

### **Focus Areas for AY2022-23:**

#### **Focus 1: Diversity, Equity, Inclusivity, Justice & Accessibility (DEIJA)**

Center accessibility and equity as we enhance online and hybrid learning at JMU.

#### **Focus 2: Assessment**

Identify administrator (specifically Academic Unit Heads and Program Directors), faculty and student needs related to online learning at JMU.

#### **Focus 3: Resources and support structures**

Identify and recommend updates to online resources, campus terminology, campus workflows, policies/guidelines, and communication channels that support online learning.

#### **Focus 4: Campus-level strategy**

Continue to align and support evolving campus-level hybrid and online learning strategy. (Keep an eye on how the campus-level strategy emerges. Identify and reach out to departments when new online programs are created.)

#### **Summary of Current Semester Activity:**

- Through three smaller working groups, the committee developed plans and implemented or established future plans to implement needs assessments for three groups, including: 1) students, 2) faculty, and 3) administrators (specifically Academic Unit Heads and Program Directors).
- Reviewed plan and call for proposals for Online Innovation Seed Grant funding. Evaluated and provided recommendations for the proposals submitted for Online Innovation Seed Grants.
- Provided opportunity for coordination and communication across various stakeholders and departments that support online and hybrid learning. Specific topics have included DEI (Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion) initiatives, accessibility, technology infrastructure, faculty, and student needs, etc.
- Andrea Adams, Audrey Burnett, and Sarah Cheverton served on the Distance Education Definitions working group. The working group, as part of JMU's Data Governance Council (a Reengineering Madison project), is developing a set of shared terms and definitions related to online learning (including in-person, online, hybrid, HyFlex, etc.).

#### **Future Work Planned:**

- Implement student needs assessment.
- Provide summary and set of recommendations based on the work of the needs assessment working groups. Recommendations will inform the goals and activities for AY 2023-24.
- Continue to discuss and ensure DEI and accessibility initiatives are thoughtfully integrated and interwoven throughout online learning infrastructure, programming, support structures and services.
- Continue service on Distance Education Definitions working group through JMU's Data Governance Council (a Reengineering Madison project) to ensure shared terms and terminology (online, hybrid, HyFlex, etc.) are developed and communicated as appropriate.
- Continue enhancing coordination and communication across various stakeholders and departments that support online and hybrid learning.