



Nov. 6, 2009

To: Kenai Peninsula College Council  
From: Paula J.S. Martin, Assistant Director for Academic Affairs  
Re: Academic Affairs Updates for Nov. 12, 2009 Meeting

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- Schedule Production activities:
  - KPC Spr10 priority registration opens Nov. 9.
  - KPC Summer10 and Fall10 room scheduling went smoothly.
  - Pre-requisite ‘turn-off’ seems to be working.
- Distance education, professional development:
  - Monthly “Faculty Discussions on Distance Education” continue as useful DE problem-solving, meetings.
  - May 10-14, 2010 next T3-funded on-campus DE workshop.
  - I attended the SLOAN-C 15<sup>th</sup> International Meeting on Distance Education. Bits of interest:
    - Since 2000, 15 different meta-analyses comparing studies of distance edu versus face-to-face courses all conclude: distance is AT LEAST as good as face-to-face.
    - A major factor in high-quality distance courses: **interactivity** (student to student, student to faculty and/or student to content engagement.)
    - Quality Matters (distance peer review program) provides education improvements in distance courses and, secondarily, to face-to-face courses. KPC is starting QM this semester.
- Retention Team is working on statistics for retention in developmental courses. Also, we are working on a new DE retention effort: snail mail to all enrolled students.
- Project updates:
  - I met with the education staff at the Seward Sea Life Center and Jackie Marshall to discuss possible KPC course development from Sea Life Center employees.
  - UAA Curriculum updates underway (Welding, PRT):
  - Continuing effort on the KPC Service Learning Project with the Kenai Visitors Center “Alaska’s Changing Landscapes: Art and Science of Climate Change.” Public talk(s) in the Fall with two months of student and faculty exhibits Jan 15-Mar 15 at the Center.
  - CareerJump (distance edu for high school students who have teacher support) pilot again for Sp10.
  - Two UAA degree directors visited KRC (Bachelors and Master’s Social Work; Bachelor’s Science & Technology).
- See the KBC, B&I and A&S faculty reports for the diverse KPC faculty activities.