Progress Report of the E-MAT Sub-committee on Course Reviews
November 14, 2013
Members: Spence Tower, Jennifer Johnson, Rhonda Bishop, Elaine McCullough

In our last meeting, on November 7, Jennifer Johnson joined us and pointed out the lack of oversight in her department of adjunct faculty members' online courses. Rhonda volunteered to research how far-reaching this problem is at Ferris and will report to the group on November 14. (Elaine has researched it in her department (Languages and Literature) and found that adjuncts' online courses are not reviewed.)

We didn't progress on our sub-committee's initial idea of incentivizing the formation of faculty teams to help each other with their online courses.

But so far we can report that we have discovered two gaps in The Ferris process for delivering quality online courses:

1. We have very few communities of faculty who collaborate to improve the quality/consistency of their particular online courses/curricula.

2. Apparently we have no system for review of online courses taught by adjuncts.

We are working on a way to close the gap created by item 1. We have brainstormed what we need to write a request to secure funds through the Focus on Student Success Grants Program, with which funds we would in turn create our own grants program to which faculty members could apply. They would request funds to create a community of online faculty, preferably teaching the same or related courses, whose purpose would be to assist each other and improve the quality and consistency of these courses.

We have not yet considered how best to close the gap created by item 2. Perhaps the place to start is with the department heads and program managers?