

Community College/Two Year College
Constituent Group Meeting Minutes

The meeting went very well. It started at 12:00 and ended around 1:45. We had around 30 in attendance (28 on roster).

The main focus of discussion was on distance learning. Comments were made (as they were last year) that the main focus of CAUSE is still directed more at the University level leaving the Community College community with a minor role. I was not sure how to handle the comments except to pass them on to the CAUSE administration for future thoughts and planning. I believe the Community Colleges can make a clear contribution to CAUSE's goals.

The following items highlight the areas of discussion:

The distance learning student usually doesn't have a choice as to how they access the academic environment, i.e., working mother, shift worker, handicapped, home-bound, etc.

Schools are moving at a fast pace into distance learning via the internet but the population they are after do not own PC's. The median income of the Internet user is \$52,000.

All courses are not and can not be re-engineered for distance learning use.

Decisions have to be made up front as to faculty compensation and support functions of distance learning, such as, who packages the course material and who man's the HELP desk, etc.

E-mail for distance learning students should be set up in bulletin board/white board areas so chat sessions can be setup between students and student faculty situations.

Internet access for students should be outsourced to minimize the cost and management burden to the school.

How do you service the student that lives in a geographic location that's not within the limits of Internet access via standard telephone lines.

Tools required to develop Internet Web interface are new to current IS staff. Webmaster positions have to be established which have the new Java and other script language skills.

Distance learning will alter the culture of a college due to radical changes that will have to be made to the traditional method of delivering education.

Security within school networks is still a big concern with Internet access from computer labs and libraries. Firewall and security software costs are running around \$10,000 per solution.

How are schools applying technology fees to cover the high cost of new technology and Internet access.

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