

UT TeleCampus Communiqué
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In this Issue

Summer Course Registration

TxDLA Conference 2004

UCEA Awards

TRACK

UTTC Digital Library News

Videoconferences – Registrars, Advisors and Financial Aid/Hazelwood/Veterans Affair Officers

TIS Updates

Program Organizations Updates

Program Oversight Committee Meetings

Summer Course Registration

On April 5th, TIS (TeleCampus Information System) registration opened for the Summer semester. Students have begun submitting registration requests, and advisors and registrars are working to process them. The TeleCampus is planning to offer 50 courses this summer. For registration information, contact Tasha Davis at <mailto:tdavis@utsystem.edu>.

TxDLA Conference 2004

Another successful TxDLA conference has occurred! Over 600 attendees gathered in Galveston at the Moody Gardens for the annual TxDLA conference. Many of the handouts will be available from the TxDLA website within the next couple of months. If you were unable to attend, please visit the site and consider joining us next year in the DFW area. UTTC Program Support Services Manager and TxDLA immediate Past President, Marta Hubbard, received the 2004 Don Foshee Leadership award at the conference.

UCEA Awards

The UT TeleCampus was well-represented in the awards category at the University Continuing Education Association (UCEA) annual conference in San Antonio. The UTTC received a Gold Award for our Online Student Orientation and Handbook during the UCEA National Marketing Awards ceremony. UTTC Director, Darcy Hardy, received the Gayle B. Childs Leadership Award, the oldest UCEA award, from the UCEA Distance Learning Community of Practice.

TRACK

UTTC staff continue the process of making changes and updates to the TRACK (TAKS Readiness and Core Knowledge) program. Some changes were suggested by the national and state review panel and TRACK team leaders. Other changes have been suggested by teachers and administrators who email to TRACK@utsystem.edu. Primarily these changes are corrections to the site and those corrections are made only after review by UTTC staff and/or TRACK team leaders. Over 35,000 users have created TRACK accounts since the February 16 launch.

April presentations for TRACK include the Texas Charter School Conference April 13, ESC Region 11 Leadership Symposium April 19, UT Austin Distance Education Center and Arlington ISD administrators April 22, and House of Delegates (TSTA) April 23.

The TAKS exit-level tests are April 27 (Mathematics), April 28 (Science), and April 29 (Social Studies).

UTTC Digital Library News

Take advantage of two upcoming opportunities

- UTTC Digital Library Videoconference for Summer Faculty on Friday, April 23 from 10:00 a.m. until noon – UTTC faculty and librarians supporting UTTC courses are encouraged to attend. If you have questions or suggestions for a topic we should cover during the videoconference, or need to know the location on your campus, please contact Terry Barksdale, 512-499-4261 or <mailto:tbarksdale@utsystem.edu>.
- UT System Libraries Distance Learning Videoconference on Friday, April 30 - We will cover various UT System initiatives and distance learning topics, and will collaborate on the best method to promote library services. The videoconference held in February offered useful information, and this one will be packed with more great ideas and system-wide news, so please be sure to join us! Watch the OFFCAMP listserv for viewing locations on your campus and for the agenda.

Videoconferences – Registrars, Advisors and Financial Aid/Hazelwood/Veteran's Affair Officers

In preparation for the summer semester, UTTC held videoconferences with registrars, advisors and financial aid/Hazelwood/veteran's affairs officers. Participants in the registrar and advisor videoconferences discussed updates to the TIS (TeleCampus Information System), campus issues and tips for summer registration. The videoconference held

with financial aid officers included information regarding TIS account and interface updates as well as campus communications. For information on these meetings or to be added to future invitation lists, contact Tasha Davis at <mailto:tdavis@utsystem.edu>.

TIS Updates

The following new changes were made to the TeleCampus Information System in preparation for summer registration:

- **Course Search Fields:** The course search field was modified to help students during the registration process using an IDEAR form. The UTTC course number field was removed, and the course title field now returns close matches.
- **Course Closing Notification:** Courses will now be identified as "full" or "cancelled" in the TIS, making students aware of courses no longer available for registration. When a course has this status, a student will not be able to submit an IDEAR form.
- **Comment Field for Student Communications:** A comment field viewable by the student has been added to the IDEAR form allowing advisors and registrars to enter comments intended for the student. This comment field allows for secure communication between components and students.
- **Wording of Emails:** With the addition of the student comment field, automated emails that go to the student once an IDEAR form has been accepted or rejected now include directions to the student to log in to their TIS account to view any comments made by an advisor or registrar.
- **Link for Student Email Address:** The student email address which appears on the IDEAR form is now a hyperlink which opens the user's email client that will allow advisors and registrars to quickly send email to a student related to their course registration.
- **Transcript Heading:** The page heading for the student transcript screen has been updated to indicate the record should be considered unofficial. This reiterates the fact that the TIS is not considered to be an official record.
- **FAO Accounts:** Financial Aid, Hazelwood and Veterans Affairs accounts are active on almost every campus. We anticipate increased usage with the opening of summer registration and the beginning of summer courses. These representatives will be receiving emails notifying them of status changes to student enrollments.

Program Organizations Updates

The Reading organization and the M.S. Technology/Human Resource Development organization are now available in Blackboard, joining the Kinesiology and Educational Technology organizations. Students in these programs and participating faculty have access. Program organizations can be utilized in a variety of ways; announcements can be posted by faculty and advisors, which can include information on courses and registration, discussion topics can be posted relating to the program's field of study, students have chat opportunities and there are a variety of helpful tools available.

Program Oversight Committee Meetings

The following program committee meetings were held during the month of April 2004.

April 13, 2004 -- MBA Academic Affairs and Executive Committee Meeting -- Austin

April 15, 2004 -- Human Resource Development (HRD) Academic Affairs Committee Meeting -- Tyler

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President, United States Distance Learning Association
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The International Forum for Women in E-Learning
September 13-15, 2004
Register NOW!
<http://www.usdla.org/html/events/ifwe/>