



August 2021
Columbia, South Carolina

COMMITTEE ON INSTRUCTIONAL DEVELOPMENT (INDEV) ANNUAL REPORT, 2019 – 2020

Submitted by Ramy Harik, Chair

I. COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Elected

Christy Friend	2021	English
Darin Freeburg	2023	I-School
John Gerdes	2023	IIT
Katie Wolfe	2021	Educational Studies
Linda Hazlett	2023	Epidemiology/Biostatistics
Lisa Bailey	2021	Management
Ramy Harik, Chair	2022	Mechanical Engineering

Appointed

Stephen Criswell	2021	Palmetto College
Haylee Mercado	2021	Sports and Entertainment
Leslie Lovelace	2021	Chemistry and Biochemistry
Tasha Childs	2021	Student Member

Ex-Officio

Murray Mitchell	Graduate School
Trena Houpp	Distributed Learning
Bryan Jenkins	DOIT
Aisha Haynes	CTE

II. Review of Online Courses

The committee had over **9 meetings** and reviewed more than **234 courses** in the academic year, setting up an unprecedented record, due to COVID19. Courses were from all colleges across the University of South Carolina.

III. Midterm Surveys



The INDEV Committee discussed the Student Senate Resolution with respect to midterm surveys and, based on evidence-based best practice, would recommend and encourage the following:

- Faculty to develop and conduct midterm evaluation surveys directly between them and the students, with the target to hear back from the students and incorporate changes as they deem necessary
- Faculty to seek support from the Center for Teaching Excellence, should they deem necessary, to create the survey as well as to support for online delivery

The INDEV committee would like to inform faculty of the online course delivery series by the CTE starting on March 24:

- [Introduction to Online Teaching](#) (March 24)
- [Design: Planning an Online Course](#) (March 31)
- [Develop: Building an Online Course](#) (April 7)
- [Deliver: Teaching an Online Course](#) (April 14)

IV. Proposal to Amend Course Codes

Proposal:

Amend the list of instructional method codes that require approval for Distributed Learning Delivery due to changes to instructional method codes in Banner. Requested Effective Date: Summer 2021

Background:

Courses that can be taught 50% or more online are classified as Distributed Learning Delivery courses. Such courses require approval prior to being taught and must meet the criteria provided in the syllabus checklist developed by INDEV. ☒ See checklist on:

https://sc.edu/about/offices_and_divisions/faculty_senate/committees/instructionaldevelopment/doc/indev_checklist.pdf

Due to changes in instructional practices in the past few years, in 2020, the instructional method code options in Banner were revised. The current codes and descriptions are available at:

https://www.sc.edu/about/offices_and_divisions/distributed_learning/documents/instructionalmethods_2020.pdf

Changes in Spring 2020 included the addition of DWEBS and DWEBM codes to distinguish between 100% online courses offered asynchronously, synchronously, or using a combination of asynchronous and synchronous methods. Changes in Fall 2020 included the consolidation of five codes related to two-way AV delivery to two codes and the addition of a FLEX code to allow courses to be taught using the HyFlex model.



Recommendation:

As a result, of the changes described above, InDev recommends the that following instructional method codes be classified as Distributed Learning Delivery methods:

- BWEB – Blended 50% or more web
- DWEB – 100% web asynchronous
- DWEBS – 100% web synchronous
- DWEBM – 100% Web Mix Asynchronous & Synchronous
- FLEX – Flexible Face-to-Face or Online (HyFlex Model)
- BTWON – 50% or more Two-Way AV
- DTWS – 100% Two-Way AV
- DOTH – Other Distance Delivery (*primarily used for internship, clinical, or practicum
- courses that are part of a 100% online program)

V. Blanket Approval for Online Course Delivery during the COVID-19 Emergency

Based on the extenuating circumstances caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, the Instructional Development (InDev) Committee, with input and concurrence from the Steering Committee of the UofSC Faculty Senate, proposes to extend approval for online course delivery to all face-to-face, hybrid and blended courses scheduled. This one-time exemption from the usual online course approval process is temporary in nature. This exemption from the usual online course approval process will be in effect as long as the faculty senate steering committee deems necessary. Courses slated for online delivery after the COVID-19 emergency must be approved via the normal process before the course is taught online. Those faculty teaching courses under the terms of this exceptional provision: a) must submit to their unit head the course syllabus, to be delivered to InDev via the Office of Distributed Learning (ODL) prior to the first day of scheduled classes; and b) are encouraged to work collaboratively with the Center for Teaching Excellence (CTE) and/or ODL for course development and to ensure adherence to best practices in online teaching.

VI. Carolina Core

The Faculty Senate Steering Committee asked InDev to consider: 1) should the Faculty Senate review the Carolina Core curriculum with the possibility of revising it? and 2) if so, what process should we follow to ensure effective faculty representation and actually improve the core?

InDev met on April 15 to discuss the change. With respect to question 1, the committee unanimously voted yes. The time is right to consider possible revisions for several reasons, including:

- The Carolina Core is complicated and not transfer friendly from other institutions as well as internally (as some colleges place restrictions).



- The Carolina Core did not consider advising in its current status and is not student friendly.
- Syllabi for Carolina Core courses are problematic, especially with respect to outcomes and their assessment.
- The impact of the Carolina Core on the time to graduation needs to be assessed.
- The timing is right, after 10 years and the SACS visit.

In its meeting on April 22, InDev formed a sub-committee to work on the process over the summer and hopes to present an initial recommendation for feedback from the Faculty Senate in September. Professors Bourbonnais, Fenimore, Kelly, Hazlett, Lovelace and Harik will be members of this sub-committee.

VII. Program Modality Changes

At the request of the Faculty Senate Chair following the May 14, 2021 meeting of the Senate, InDev discussed what approvals should be required for program modality changes. The question arises due a process change made in 2017 such that requests for online delivery for programs no longer went to Faculty Senate for approval. (There is no current process in APPS for such action if they only change being made is to modality). Currently, only courses, not programs, have a component in APPS for DL/online review/approval. However, the Faculty Manual language indicates that the Curricula and Courses "shall also consider, and recommend to the faculty, action on all requests for the institution, modification, or deletion of courses and of any prescribed programs of study that do not fall within the purview of the graduate faculty." We are faced with the challenge of realigning process and policy. InDev met on May 21, 2021. After considering the issue for an hour, we determined that no special committee review or Senate approval should be necessary for program modality changes. Senate approval of the program and the courses, including specific approval for online delivery of any courses offered more than 50% online, should suffice to ensure program quality.

VIII. Conclusion

Members of the INDEV committee are to be commended on the outstanding performance during an unprecedented year, where their commitment to the University of South Carolina was unwavering. The amount of course reviews that were processed for adequate online delivery and the level of detail provided to guide faculty were both sizable in terms of quality and quantity. The members of INDEV are thankful for the opportunity to serve.