Distance Learning Steering Committee

- Convened September 2011 to provide recommendations to Chancellor, President Handley and UC Director Madison on how best to revise and refine the business model for the delivery of distance learning – including Online Maine and University College – encompassing the range of services provided, location of services, priorities for service provision and funding and budgeting approaches
- DLSC is a standing committee comprising representatives from each UMS campus, as well as the System Office. Members include representatives of CAOs, CFOs, faculty and staff. There is cross-representation between DLSC and T4, as well as between the new LMS working group and DLSC.
- First report issued in December 2011 ID’d 5 overarching issues
  - Report available at: https://sites.google.com/a/maine.edu/dlsc/?pli=1
  - Clear articulation of a vision for distance education – particularly online education – in advancing access to quality UMS programs across and beyond Maine
  - Determination of the array of services provided by UC to support program quality and delivery
  - Exploration of a potential structure to promote and facilitate shared services across universities
  - Establishment of a UC funding model that responds to the array of services and to UC and university budgetary needs, including consideration of e-tuition and fee structures
  - Recommendation that the DLSC serve on an ongoing basis as an advisory steering committee
- Vision articulated: *The Universities in UMS hold the educational needs of students and the State of Maine as our top priority. We are thus committed to be major high quality providers of distance education courses, programs, and student services. Our offerings in distance education will be fully integrated into the academic units on our campuses and will be of commensurate quality as those offered in all of our programs.*
- Guiding principles:
  - Universities in UMS will work collaboratively to ID unique opportunities to develop new programs that will allow us to attract new students
  - Recognize that all academic curricula and programs offered through distance education emanate from the seven universities and their faculty according to their own established practices of shared governance
  - All campuses will participate in distance education through the shared governance of their faculty and administration
• Distance education will support faculty choice of the most effective technological and pedagogical approaches to teaching while recognizing the benefits of consistency and commonality in broad deliver.

• Have identified a core array of services required to support the realization of the vision
  o Moving ahead with a centralized approach to the state authorization process and a focused marketing effort
  o Still to come are plans for professional development opportunities, process for testing emerging technologies, further investigation of shared services opportunities, and student services for distance learners
  o Also to come this spring is in-depth look at UC’s current funding model and the potential development of funding alternatives, as well as consideration of e-tuition issues

• Relationship to T4
  o Membership cross-representation
  o DLSC is focused on the appropriate supports required to deliver quality educational opportunities at a distance
    ▪ Complements T4’s work examining the role of technology in education from both a faculty and student perspective
    ▪ DLSC is very cognizant of the boundary between its work and the work that is the purview of the faculty
  o Both groups have a vision for e-Learning – need to be certain they are in sync
  o Question is how to ensure that work remains additive and avoids duplication of effort
DLSC Membership

**Convener/Chair:** Rosa Redonnett, UMS, Executive Director, Student Affairs

**University of Maine:**
Sue Hunter, VP Academic Affairs/Provost  
Richard Powell, Associate Professor, Political Science

**University of Maine at Augusta:**
Ellen Schneiter, VP, Finance/Administration  
Jodi Williams, Assistant Professor, Library Information Services

**University of Maine at Farmington:**
Ashley Montgomery, Director, Teaching & Learning Collaborative  
Theresa Overall, Assistant Professor, Education

**University of Maine at Fort Kent**
John Murphy, VP Administration  
Joseph Zubrick, Associate Professor, Oral Communications & Theatre

**University of Maine at Machias**
Stuart Swain, VP Academic Affairs/Provost  
Shalee Page, Associate Professor, Chemistry

**University of Maine at Presque Isle**
Ray Rice, Professor, English  
Michael Sonntag, VP Academic Affairs

**University of Southern Maine**
Monique La Rocque, Executive Director, Professional & Continuing Education  
Julien Murphy, Professor, Philosophy

**UMS** – Richard Thompson, CIO  
**University College** – Curt Madison