TO: Belinda Blevins, Psychology

Vickie Edwards, Institute of Government

Jennifer Holtz, Counseling, Adult & Rehabilitation Education

James Golden, Criminal Justice

Cynthia Johnson, Accounting

Denise LeGrand, Mathematics and Statistics

Karen Leonard, Management

Carolyn Macheak, Ottenheimer Library

Lisa Sherwin, Psychology

FROM: Andrew Wright, President of the Faculty Senate

SUBJECT: Charge to Ad Hoc Committee on On-line Education

DATE: August 25, 2014

Dr. Lisa Sherwin will be chairing the committee.

The committee may add members, as appropriate to its task, by majority vote of the committee. The chair of the committee will notify the President of the Faculty Senate of any changes in committee constituency.

Please consult with the Director of STaR, Kati Molnar, and the Associate Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs, Karen Wheeler, as needed. They are not ex officio members of the committee, so they are not obligated to attend all meetings.

Please add student members of your choice to the committee.

Charge: Use of technology in education has been driven by a growing on-line presence. There is now enough experience with these technologies and practices that best practices in teaching with on-line technologies are starting to emerge.

The future of education appears to be poised for disruptive change. This committee gives UALR the opportunity to get out in front of that change, by determining a strategic vision for the future use of on-

line technologies in education.

Please review current best practices in on-line education, especially regarding pedagogical effectiveness that is backed up by evidence. Please summarize this information so that the Faculty Senate can access it. It does not have to be presented to the Senate or written as a formal report. A working document would be adequate.

Please continue to investigate the impact that eVersity is likely to have on UALR. What will be the likely impacts on UALR's ability to continue to offer programs if on-line enrollment is redirected to eVersity and if instructional capacity (faculty and adjunct) is repurposed to eVersity. What programs will absorb the brunt of the change? Who are our external stakeholders in on-line education? How will they be affected by eVersity?

In order for faculty to transition to use of new technology in teaching, some professional development activities need to be developed and pushed out to campus. The committee needs to develop a sense of what kind of activities these should be and how they should be implemented within UALR's professional development paradigm. A pilot study might be the most effective method for both working out an interesting faculty development activity and uncover barriers to implementation.

The types of things that are different between face-to-face and on-line relating to workload need to be enumerated. The task of integrating into campus workload policy is beyond the scope of this committee; however, this committee has the expertise to inform workload policy on novel things that occur in on-line instruction that don't appear in face-to-face instruction.

UALR has engaged in a number of endeavors in support of on-line instruction over the years. Is there measurable evidence of effectiveness or demand that can be reported? For instance, do we have patterns of enrollment for 8 week sessions? How has summer on-line registration changed?

Do students need training to participate in on-line courses? Would a modification to the First Year Experience requirement be necessary or would a separate activity need to be devised?

Please report to the Faculty Senate as needed. A final report should be produced by the end of the academic year, when this committee's charge expires.

Thank you for agreeing to serve on the Ad Hoc Committee on On-line Education.