

MONTANA BOARD OF REGENTS OF HIGHER EDUCATION
Policy and Procedures Manual

SUBJECT: ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

Policy 303.71 – Online Learning Distance Education Advisory Board

Effective: Adopted: November 4, 1988; Revised: September 22, 2011; Revised January 5, 2021

I. Board Policy

A. Composition: The Distance Education advisory committee (DEAC) is composed of Montana University System (MUS) distance education leaders who collaborate to benefit learners and to align campus distance education efforts. The DEAC is composed of one primary representative from each stand-alone campus in the MUS and from each of the community colleges. DEAC campus representatives are appointed by the respective campus chief academic officer.

B. Charge:

1. The purpose of the DEAC will be to advise the academic, research, and student affairs (ARSA) committee of the board on matters related to present and future delivery of distance education and to the use and types of educational technologies associated with quality distance education.
2. The DEAC serves as a formal conduit for campuses and OCHE to share technology interests, adaptations, uses, experiences for the purposes of judging and evaluating compatibility and possible multi-campus purchasing/licensing efficiencies that can be discussed and attained where feasible, as well as to offer periodic recommendations to the ARSA committee of the board, as needed. Campuses considering the acquisition of large-scale interactive delivery systems and/or learning management systems to support technology-mediated learning or distance course development and delivery should strive to select systems that are compatible with existing technology, and should provide timely notice of interest, product experience/evaluations, and potential acquisition to the to the office of the commissioner of higher education for review and discussion with the DEAC prior to purchase and implementation. Prior to purchases of other related distance learning technology, campuses are encouraged to share their desire for such technologies with the DEAC.

II. Reporting Procedures

A. The DEAC, with assistance from the office of the commissioner, shall file an annual report of distance learning activity over the preceding fiscal year with the ARSA committee of the board.