

An update from InDev, to inform the Faculty Senate of its intent to simplify the process of proposing and reviewing courses for online delivery.

Without sacrificing the rigor of our academic programs, the Instructional Development Sub-committee of the UofSC Faculty Senate (InDev) intends to revise and simplify the current process for proposing and approving undergraduate courses for blended/hybrid and fully online delivery. More specifically, InDev plans to:

1. Clarify certain sections of the current InDev Checklist (Rev. 8.13.18), and replace Sections 16 and 17, which require proponents to include in their application a tally showing the total number of student "learning minutes" per course-related activity, with: a) a schedule of learning activities demonstrating that students will expend approximately the same amount of total time and effort as they would in a traditional face-to-face version of the course (see attached red-lined draft for specific verbiage); and b) the proponent's attestation in the application certifying that the course "incorporates an amount of work equivalent to the face-to-face version of the course and appropriate for the number of credit hours awarded (2,100 total minutes of time on task per credit hour awarded)"; and
2. Review and approve undergraduate courses submitted for approval for online delivery on a rolling basis, as needed, without the requirement of waiting to take such action during its regularly scheduled monthly meeting. For example, rather than using the current "second Thursday" cut-off date for application consideration and utilizing only the "third Thursday" physical meetings to vote on those applications, InDev would be able to review applications in the queue on a weekly or bi-weekly basis, deliberate and vote via electronic means, and respond to proponents in a more timely manner with course approvals.

A proposal from InDev with concurrence from the Faculty senate's Steering Committee, to extend approval for online course delivery to any class scheduled to be offered in Maymester or summer of 2020, should all courses be designated by the University to be delivered solely online.

Based on the extenuating circumstances caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, the Instructional Development (InDev) Sub-committee, with input and concurrence from the Steering Committee of the UofSC Faculty Senate, proposes that, in the event that the University determines that Maymester 2020 and/or summer 2020 courses will be delivered solely online, to extend approval for online course delivery to all face-to-face, hybrid and blended courses scheduled for Maymester 2020 and/or any Summer 2020 sessions. This one-time exemption from the usual online course approval process is temporary in nature. Courses slated for online delivery for fall 2020 or thereafter must be approved via the normal process before the course is taught online. Those faculty teaching courses under the terms of this exceptional provision during Maymester 2020 and/or Summer 2020: 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 expected 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.