

# Strategic Initiatives Steering Committee

## Project Proposal Template

Subcommittee: Capacity and Sustainability

Name of the Project or Proposed Action: Increase Online Learning Options

### **Subcommittee Background**

California's public institutions of higher education, including its system of 23 California State University (CSU) institutions, operate in an arduous environment of constrained fiscal resources, and competition to attract the finest students and deliver top-notch academic and support services to students.

While state financial support for higher education remains unpredictable, CSUCI must continue to ensure the campus has the necessary economic and physical resources to meet the needs of a growing student population and fulfill our university's ongoing commitment to our region.

Established under the Strategic Initiatives Steering Committee, the Capacity and Sustainability Subcommittee is charged with engaging the campus community to identify the campus' most pressing economic and physical resource needs and key opportunities to support sustainable growth. This campus community engagement has helped to inform the development of the series of strategic initiative proposals the Subcommittee is recommending.

### **Proposal Overview**

The online learning proposal aims to increase online course offerings at CI with a focus on providing choice in course modality for students. We recommend increasing online offerings for courses that have more than one section with one or more sections being redesigned as an online offering. Students are then able to choose the modality that works for their learning needs and schedules.

This proposal will meet two objectives. First, it will reduce the rate at which we need to build new classrooms. The addition of five online courses per semester frees up one class space during the core of the academic day (9-4:15). Second, it will improve students' time to graduation by providing them with a choice in course modality. According to research by James, Swan & Daston (2016) and our own [CI student voices](#), having an online option will allow students to enroll in additional courses despite the complexity of their personal lives. This also aligns with our effort to have students take 15 units per semester.

In order to effectively support students that are not on campus daily, we will need to improve our online student support services such as tutoring, counseling, etc. This proposal integrates this into year 2.

### **Responses to Strategic Initiative Steering Committee Questions**

1. What is the data or evidence that we will examine to gauge the effectiveness of the project?

This project will be successful if:

- The number of online courses being offered increases by 5 courses per semester, reducing the need for one classroom per semester.
- Review of courses using QLT rubric determines courses are high quality.
- Student final grades in online courses are comparable to traditional courses

**2. What is the implementation timeline? (Include budget and/or allocation determination.)**

Spring 2018

- Work with Deans and Program Chairs to Identify programs to offer additional online courses. Goal identify 5 courses to move one section online. Courses with multiple sections will be targeted. The expectation will be that 1-2 sections of a course are moved online to increase choice for students to take online courses.
- Focused preparation of faculty to teach online (\$2,000/ faculty member X 5= \$10,000)

Fall 2018

- New online courses offered
- Quality Assurance review of courses using Quality Learning and Teaching rubric. (\$500/course x 5= \$2,500)
- Identify 5 additional courses to be redesigned
- Focused preparation of faculty to teach online (\$2,000/ faculty member X 5= \$10,000)
- Identify student support services that can add online services to support students
- Hire Instructional Designer/Technologist to focus on online support services (\$60,000)

Spring 2019

- Repeat course design and evaluation phase
- Begin rollout of online student support services.
- Continue online course development and deployment

Fall 2020

- Evaluate online courses and student supports and set new benchmarks

**3. Who (person, unit, etc.) will be responsible for implementing, tracking, and evaluating this project?**

Teaching & Learning Innovation with support from the AVP of Academic Planning will implement, track and evaluate this project. Teaching & Learning Innovations is prepared to support faculty to teach online, we have a process for reviewing courses, but need to formalize the need. We currently do not prepare staff in learning new technologies and methods for providing student services online. This would need to be added and could be integrated

**4. What groups and/or individuals provided input during the development of this proposal?**

- Students
- Business and Finance
- Teaching & Learning Innovations Faculty Partners

- AVP Academic Planning
- Executive Director Student Success Initiative
- Technology & Innovation Leadership Team
- Academic Senate

**5. If successful, how could or should this project be scaled up?**

If successful this project will continue to increase the number of online courses offered to students at CI as a choice in their academic planning. We will also see an increase in the supports for students that are not on campus full-time. This project could go two directions. One option is to set a goal for how many online classes we will offer and continue the cycle until the goal is met. After meeting the goal, we would move to a maintenance phase with faculty preparation and quality assurance. A second option is to set a goal and then evaluate if we wish to move towards different types of online programming such as degrees, certificates, or credentials.