Review of Summary Notes & Editing/Approval of Notes

Meeting notes from October 20th, 2014 were reviewed. Notes were passed without edits.

Group discussion

At the beginning of the meeting there was some discussion of the Distance Education Gateway and whether or not it is up to date. Apparently, According to Jasmine, the gateway is not necessarily reflective of if and when programs are offered. Students probably might not be able to determine if a course of study they are pursuing is actually going to be offered in a framework that would be a reasonable fit for their schedule. This is part of Goal 2 “Goal #2: Comprehensive information is communicated to the college community about the range of programs and services available to distance learners.” Suggestions were made for the CSM DE plan to address this area including:

- Make alterations to the website to make it easier for online courses is available
- Audit all online course offerings to update what degrees and certs are actually available

Another issue is communicating with counselors and providing equal access for all online students, which is part of Goal 3 Objective 3 “Objective #3: Create more integrated and accessible online support services for distance learning students which are comparable to those available students on campus.”

Laura Skaff commented on how counselors don’t necessarily know or have special training in online education info for students. Alexis Alexander brought up some issues with equal access and how the Open Ed Initiative (OEI) is going to address some of these issues with online tutoring and also a student readiness module, but also that standards for current online classes will have to keep up with what is going to be offered online through the OEI.
Rosemary Nurre mentioned the fact that all of these projects are going to need funding. This means that administrators need to be involved. The group decided that we need an administrator at all meetings, to make sure that recommendations are on track and realistic.

The group then discussed Objective 2 of Goal 4: Objective #2: **Improve student satisfaction with distance education courses.** AA mentioned that at this point only students who drop are surveyed as to their satisfaction with online classes. The group suggested that the office of instruction “Develop a new survey that goes out to all online and hybrid students, not just to students who drop an online class”

After more discussion the group agreed to work on the plan over the break with an anticipated goal of posting the plan and taking it to IPC in the early spring.