

To assess learning at the end of a course, faculty have the freedom to choose different forms of assessment that are appropriate to their disciplines. If a final comprehensive exam is to be given in a course, then it should be scheduled during the final exam week.

Notes on New Models: MOOCs and Beyond

I will send out a document on the symposium put together by Houston Davis

What was it: A symposium that was sponsored by the Board of Regents and involved VPAAAs, faculty council members and other faculty involved in online courses. A representative from the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board, Bill and Melinda Gates foundation and Educause were also there with reporting done by the Wall Street Journal and the Chronicle for Higher Education.

What was the purpose? The symposium was to address the new learning models that are tied to technology. The goal of the new learning models is to help students learn more effectively, help the universities reach more students, and to help students earn their degree more rapidly.

What did I learn? There are a number of universities in the USG system, who are leading the country in exploring technologies role in learning. Georgia Tech is at the forefront with their Masters in Computer Science Program, but Georgia State is also engaged and is coordinating multicampus initiatives. Columbus State is offering a 3 year degree program in communication and criminal justice using adaptive learning. Four universities at all 4 levels are developing a virtual emporium for precalculus that is based on the emporium model developed at Virginia Tech and used at Georgia State.

The USG sees these initiatives as experiments in exploring new ways of teaching students. They emphasize that quality is important and they acknowledge that some of these initiatives may not work but we hope to learn from our failures. One example is the difficulty of doing an online compositions course—the problems with peer evaluations. One participant spoke up and said whether our experiments are considered successes or failures, we will learn new techniques that will help us in our traditionally seated or traditional online courses.

What does this mean for Clayton State? We will likely be looking at opportunities to work with other universities in developing courses or programs. Or we could develop programs on our own that others could adopt. Because this involves programs and courses, we will be seeing and discussing these ideas in the senate.