UMSAEP - Report 2011

UWC-MU Occupational Therapy Department: Education & Technology Collaboration

Proposal Title: Developing and Using an Interdisciplinary & Multi-Institutional Annotated eLearning Repository for the Allied Health Professions

Proposal Goals: (1) Develop a comprehensive series of online multimedia learning “units” — creating an electronic “repository” — organized and indexed as content and problem-based modules through the coordinated efforts of a multidisciplinary and inter-university, geographically dispersed team of practitioners, scientists and educators. Initially, the online multimedia learning units will be developed by SHP and the University of Western Cape (UWC), Occupational Therapy Department faculty. And,

(2) Develop and/or expand extant discipline-specific courses by providing and promoting access to the up-to-date, multimedia high-tech, content and problem-based resource repository. As a model project we will use this approach to enhance, optimize and further develop the Problem-Based Case courses offered by MU’s Occupational Therapy (OT) and its Cardiopulmonary and Diagnostic Sciences Departments’ and that of UWC (Problem Based Cases, and Ethics in Occupational Therapy).

Project Activity: These include pre-visit video conferences, application for the Mizzou Advantage funding program, visit to UWC — on site collaborative activity and post-visit continuation of initiated collaborative online learning initiatives.

Pre-visit activity:

Project related activity began formally began formally in September 2010 when the proposal was awarded. These include:

Video conferences (4 in all) and email exchanges regarding curricula, course content, method of delivery, Mizzou Advantage award application, and UWC visit schedule.

This was also the forum used to meet the occupational therapy faculty and apprise them of the online PBL course and accompanying multimedia material (repository content) that was being developed at MU. Discussions were held regarding designing parallel cases in the PBL format that contain common pathology, assessment and treatment needs but differ in cultural (South Africa, United States) including geographic, rural/urban, and socioeconomic contexts. Cases include narrative, medical/basic science information, as well as curricular content, assignments and skills related to occupational therapy practice.

Develop a comprehensive series of online content and problem-based multimedia learning “units” — creating an electronic “repository” through the coordinated efforts of a multidisciplinary and inter-university (MU and UWC) team of faculty:

This is the first goal of the UMSAEP proposal. Under the guidance of Dr. Jonassen content and problem-based multimedia learning units were designed and developed at MU for 3 disciplines - radiography, sonography and occupational therapy. Faculty of UWC were involved in the discussion and aware of the progress made in these areas. The UM System has purchased a commercial repository that is currently being worked upon by the IT faculty so that it meets
the UM needs via Blackboard.

Develop and/or expand discipline-specific courses by providing and promoting access to the up-to-date, multimedia high-tech, content and problem-based resource repository initially targeting the Problem-Based Case courses offered by MU's Occupational Therapy (OT) and its Cardiopulmonary and Diagnostic Sciences Departments' and that of UWC (Problem Based Cases, and Ethics in Occupational Therapy).

This is the second goal of the UMSAEP proposal. Cases in the PBL format were written for online delivery for occupational therapy and radiological sciences Problem Based Cases courses offered in Fall 2010 and Spring 2011 semesters. Course delivery included multimedia problem based content. Assignments were redesigned to include features that require review of relevant literature and facilitate discussion/communication with peers regarding the best possible solutions to the presenting problems. The assignments can be readily expanded to include student interactions between the two campuses (MU and UWC), particularly with respect to cultural, socioeconomic and health care decisions.

Application to the Mizzou Advantage award program: Based on the on-going activity with the two aforementioned goals and video conference/email discussions in November 2010 an MU-UWC collaborative application was submitted to the Mizzou Advantage award program.

Prof. Firdouza Waggie, UWC visiting faculty, was given a demonstration of Blackboard features and the occupational therapy online course and multimedia content. Prof. Waggie was at that time in the process of transitioning one of her courses to web-assisted delivery and was offered assistance with respect to course design, assignments and rubrics.

The UM/UWC Partnership Celebration events held at MU in May 2011 assisted in formulating the direction of the UWC visit activities in keeping with the strategic goals of the partnership.

**UWC visit activity:**

At UWC I primarily worked with Dr. Jo-Celene De Jongh and Dr. Lisa Wegner of the Occupational Therapy department.

- As all of the teaching in the department were being offered in the traditional face-to-face format, meetings were held with department faculty to get them familiarized with the Blackboard instructional platform – particularly emphasizing its similarities with the KWEL platform being used in UWC.
- Faculty from the occupational therapy department were also familiarized with the design, format and rubric of the online PBL course being offered at MU.
- The three courses where content and problem-based scenarios are being developed were transitioned to a web-assisted format. The 3 courses are: Ethics, Older adults, and Kinesiology.
  - This involved joint meetings with the UWC educational technology personnel and the primary instructor for the course. In addition to uploading course related content material, faculty were familiarized with the KWEL instructional tools so that they could work further independently to expand the specific courses.
O Occupational therapy – Ethics related multi-media content and problem based resources developed by the American Occupational Therapy Association was shared with the department. In addition, URLs of other ethics and other content material were also shared.
O Occupational therapy cases in the PBL format that contain common pathology, assessment and treatment needs were also shared. The cases can be adapted for different geographical, cultural, and socioeconomic contexts.
O Scaffolding of problem-based content material within a specific course was presented and discussed with faculty.

- Information regarding development of course evaluation forms for web-assisted/online course delivery was shared with Prof. Waggie.
- In addition to meetings with the occupational therapy faculty, I gave two presentations. One, a campus-wide presentation on “Problem Based Learning: Transitioning to an online/hybrid learning environment”. This presentation was well attended and well received. The second was to occupational therapy, physiotherapy and therapists from the Rehabilitation Centre on “Neuroplasticity and Rehabilitation”.
- I also had individual meetings with other department faculty. Mentioned below are the key item/s of discussion that influence the future shaping of this project:
  O Prof. Ramesh Bharuthram, Vice-Rector UWC, was supportive of this project as it addressed Distance Learning/eLearning priorities of the UMSAEP. He has recommended that the occupational therapy department apply for the UWC ring-fenced funding to promote Research and Innovation in Teaching and Learning.
  O Prof. Mpofu, Dean College of Health Science, UWC, was keen on ensuring that the collaboration was long term and that the overall goals were accomplished. She has offered me to pursue joint appointment at UWC and encouraged me to apply for the Fulbright Fellowship program.
  O Prof. Vivienne Bozaleck, Director Teaching and Learning, UWC enthusiastically supported the project. She has conducted similar eLearning joint ventures with universities in Europe. She made arrangements for me to give a campus-wide presentation on “Problem Based Learning: Transitioning to an online/hybrid environment”.
  O Prof. Julie Philips, Head of Department, Physiotherapy, UWC is particularly interested that her faculty too collaborate in developing the multidisciplinary content and problem-based learning units.

Post-visit activity:

- Two PBL case scenarios are under development for integration into the Older Adults course offered at the two campuses. A third case is being formulated as part of the American Occupational Therapy Association's special interest section continuing education series.
- Pending:
  O Additional course specific PBL cases will be developed and shared between the two occupational therapy departments for incorporation in respective courses.
  O To develop online course assignments that encourage communication and discussion between MU and UWC students for PBL cases relating to Ethics,
Older Adults and Kinesiology courses.
- As a model we will enhance, optimize and further develop the Older Adults course offered by MU and UWC in the Spring 2012 semester,
- File the necessary paperwork for joint appointment status.
- Collaborate with UWC faculty in developing application to the UWC Scholarship in Teaching and Learning ring-fenced funding program and identify mutual outcomes to be mentioned in the Fulbright Fellowship application.
- Develop pre- and post-course assessments to measure teaching effectiveness.