MEMORANDUM

TO: Academic Department Heads
FROM: Mark A. Pagano, Dean
      Continuing Education and Conferences
DATE: December 29, 2004
SUBJECT: Support for Development of Distance Learning Courses

The Office for Continuing Education and Conferences (OCEC) invites your department’s participation in the development of campus-based distance learning courses. Consistent with Purdue’s strategic plan, this initiative will support the University’s engagement strategy through the development of courses and programs designed to enhance access to Purdue courses for the citizens of Indiana and beyond. Special consideration will, therefore, be given to courses that have widespread appeal and which represent core strengths of the University.

A secondary objective of this initiative is to support the efforts of our own students to graduate on time by offering courses that typically have long waiting lines, or perhaps are offered only periodically. High-demand courses that are required in multiple majors and which may be currently oversubscribed will be of particular interest.

These courses would typically be delivered through WebCT, Purdue’s standard platform for online courses, accompanied where appropriate with video streaming. Departments will maintain complete academic control over distance learning courses offered through Continuing Education.

OCEC will offer stipends for summer development of distance learning courses with an anticipated launch during fall 2005 semester. Continuing Education will ask that a department commit to offering the online courses for at least three semesters.

We look forward to your department’s participation, and I invite you to contact Dennis L. McElhoe, Distance Learning Coordinator, at 4-1434 or dlmcelhoe@purdue.edu, for more information and to answer any questions you might have regarding this initiative. Please let us know of your interest in developing a distance learning course no later than February 1, 2005. Thank you for your consideration.

MAP/kag