Developing a Distance Learning Faculty Wiki

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DEVELOPING A DISTANCE LEARNING FACULTY WIKI

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A Wiki What?

- Group-edited site with tracking of user postings
- May be reversible by the wiki master / may be edited over by users
- May be controlled in terms of access (for posting, for reading)
- May include text, sound files, image files, video files, interactive elements, and other digital media
- May be widely searchable
- May be easily archivable
TECHNOLOGICAL CONSIDERATIONS

- Internal or external (in-house or external) wiki technology
- In-house server or external public server
- Accessibility builds for all contents
- Backup of materials
ROLE DEFINITIONS

- A wiki master? (anonymous or not, faculty ranks or not)? Pay structure? Place in the university hierarchy?
- Invitations to various faculty, administrators and staff for various branches of the wiki? Multiple branches?
**SOME LEGALITIES**

- Intellectual property (Released to authors? Owned solely by the university? Creative Commons copyright release / sharing?)
- Federal, state and university Web accessibility standards
- Disclaimers, and indemnification of the university by those posting to the wiki
BRANDING

- Links to the Division of Continuing Education (DCE)
- Links to K-State Salina’s DCE?
- Links to K-State
- Uses of logos, taglines and identifiers
**Publication Range**

- **Private** (just among invited and active DL faculty who are authenticated in through the ISIS system)
- **Semi-Private** (just among faculty, administrators and staff at K-State)
- **Public** (WWW access for reading / WWW access for reading and posting – editing, without authentication)
Brainstormed Content Areas

- Curricular Design
- Going Global
- General E-Learning Technos
- New Technos
- Automated Learning
- Instructor Community
- Online Learner Supports

- Reusability and Open Sharing
- Online Teaching
- Regulatory Concerns
- Accessibility
- Educational Resources
- Professional Development Events and Opportunities
ENVIRONMENTAL SCAN

- Edutech Wiki
  http://edutechwiki.unige.ch/en/Instructional_design
- E-Learning Tools Wiki
  http://phlesig.pbwiki.com/
- Lack of E-Learning Wikis
- Teaching with Technology
  http://twt.wikispaces.com/eLearning
DEFINING **VALUE-ADDED**

- Fresh on-ground insights, researchable ideas
- Evolving wiki structure and development
- Timely updates
- Colloquial tones and collegial sharing, constructive synergistic exchange of ideas
- Cross-fertilization of ideas across domain fields
- Local, regional, national and international value
Faculty, Staff and Admin Buy-in

- Risk reduction (through policies, training, professional oversight—but without editorial decision-making)
- Supportive user interface and wiki database structure
- Controlled costs with in-house technologies and databases (if possible)
- Clear design and branding
- Strategic partnering with entities on campus
- Regular public relations outreach to in-organization entities
- Defined human contacts for mediation and updates
SOME THOUGHTS ON GETTING STARTED

- Article solicitations based on topics and areas of interest?
- Starting private and going public?
- Soft launch early on and then a grand opening and hard launch?
**PROS AND CONS**

**PROS:**
- A sharing of expertise among practitioners in the field (from various academic fields)
- Potential positive publicity
- A community-building endeavor
- Clear branding for quality e-learning at the university

**CONS:**
- Investments: technology, costs, faculty and staff time
- Potential negative publicity risks
- Overlap with other wiki endeavors in higher education
- A non-starter
CONTACT AND CONCLUSION

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Instructional Design Open Studio (IDOS) Blog

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