



The SUNY Online Digest: July 2021

Updates

SUNY Online Updates from the Virtual STC

System Administration provided updates to the virtual SUNY Technology Conference (STC) participants on June 23, 2021. Updates included the recruitment to completion pipeline work, discussions around all the ways in which we support students and campuses through the pipeline, and what are the roles of System Admin and of campuses going forward. Open STC session recordings are available on the [event schedule](#). For SUNY-only session recordings, please contact Erin Maney (erin.maney@suny.edu).

Policy Updates

Prior Learning Assessment Policy - SUNY has one of the first policies on Prior Learning Assessment in the country. This policy is currently under review to be updated with feedback from campuses. Anticipated revision is slated to be available for comment in the Fall 2021 term.

General Education Policy - A report on the General Education Policy was delivered to the Board in June 2021. Work is continuing on outstanding issues and is teed up for Fall 2021 to include looking at new Gen Ed requirements and demonstration of Gen Ed competency vs. Gen Ed knowledge. This work will include further engagement from campuses through Provost offices.

SUNY Online Teaching

Call for Courses for Observation

SUNY Online Teaching seeks nominations for exemplar online courses to use as model *courses for observation* for new incoming online faculty. Nominations will be accepted only from campus directors of online learning or online instructional designers, who are familiar with the design of the campus-based online courses and faculty.

Campus participation is not required; however, this is an excellent opportunity to recognize excellent online faculty (and your campus), and to give your faculty the opportunity to *share what they know* with the newest members of the online teaching and learning community. Faculty who agree to be observed will be recognized for their contribution to the community with a badge and testimonial.

The course must meet the criteria for this activity and demonstrate strong alignment with the criteria outlined in the [OSCQR rubric](#) for instructional design and accessibility good practices. For additional details on this program: <https://online.suny.edu/onlineteaching/engage/courseobservationprogram/>.

OSCQR Regular Substantive Interaction (RSI) Workgroup

New regulatory definitions of distance education require that institutions ensure **regular and substantive interaction (RSI)** between a student and an instructor(s).

A multi-pronged approach is necessary to address this including faculty and instructional designer training, improvements in online course design and facilitation, and online course reviews and refreshes to ensure compliance. A volunteer workgroup has been convened to review OSCQR standards and documentation to suggest any edits to the

standards and additions to the documentations. The intention is to make sure that Regular and Substantive Interaction is clearly visible, articulated and highlighted in specific standards and related support materials.

General Workgroup Goals:

- Review RSI-related OSCQR standards to see what changes might be necessary and provide recommendations for editing these existing OSCQR standards.
- Create a dedicated page on the OSCQR website to clarify and target RSI.
- Update the OSCQR website materials for specifically identified RSI-related standards with how the standard can assist to meet the requirements of RSI.
- Update the community and solicit feedback. (participate in the OTTER Institute panel presentation in August.)
- Promote the updated OSCQR standards and materials in Fall 2021 with Online Teaching webinars and Community calls.

The team will meet weekly between June 23 – August 11 – ending with a presentation of the results of the workgroup during the next CPD OTTER Institute on August 1, 2021 at 2pm.

Workgroup members include: Alexandra Pickett and Rob Piorkowski from SUNY Online, Tonka Jokelova (Canton), Jeff Dugan (FLCC), Martha Greatrix (ESC), Heather Bennet (ESC), Diane Auerbach Lerner (ESC), Alena Rodick (ESC), Tom Capuano (Monroe), Sonja Thomson (ESC), Alena Rodick (ESC).

Resources:

Regular and Substantive Interaction documentation taken/adapted from the WCET Policy Playbook:

https://www.everylearnereverywhere.org/wp-content/uploads/Policy-Playbook-2020_WCET.pdf

SUNY Online Degrees at Scale: [Regular and Substantive Interaction](#)

Resources

Did You Know?

[SUNY Online Dashboards](#) are interactive data visualizations representing a wealth of information about campuses, programs, faculty, students, and SUNY Online services.

This month we are highlighting the **Technology Support - Students** dashboard which features a visual representation of the student support tickets by category and campus. Find out what technology concerns your students are asking about by clicking [this link](#) to view the dashboard, after authenticating with your SUNY Federated login. You can sort by your campus using the filters in the bottom right block.

[SUNY Events](#) - upcoming summer events and spring events archive

[SUNY Online Dashboards](#) - interactive data visualizations

[SUNY's COVID-19 Resource Site](#) - webinars and recordings have been moved to the [SUNY Online website](#)

[SUNY Online Teaching Gazette](#) - a curated monthly publication for those interested in keeping current with and continuously improving online teaching and learning practices

To stay informed on updates from SUNY Online, visit the [SUNY Online Announcements and Events Workplace group](#).

For questions regarding content in this issue, contact Kim Scalzo [kim.scalzo@suny.edu] or Erin Maney [erin.maney@suny.edu].

Produced by SUNY Online Communications & Community Engagement.