October 18, 2023

***Sent Via Email***

**2023-2024 Online Learning Advisory Committee**  
Sangeetha Gopalakrishan, College of Education, *Co-Chair*

Eden Haycraft, School of Labor & Employment Relations, *Co-Chair*

Brian Aldridge, College of Veterinary Medicine

Charlotte Bauer, Graduate College

Scott Cimarusti, Technology Services

Keith Hays, Office for Access and Equity

Frank Hoskinson, The Grainger College of Engineering

Adam King, Gies College of Business

Debra Korte, College of Agricultural, Consumer and Environmental Sciences

Meghan Lea Burnett, College of Media

Gretchen Lohman, University Academic Programs & Services

Tawnya Means, Gies College of Business

Anu Murphy, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

Adam Rusch, School of Information Sciences

Kristen Sackley, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

Sara Shrader, College of Applied Health Sciences

Ollie Watts Davis, College of Fine and Applied Arts

Justin York, School of Social Work

Lisa Anderson, Office of Online Learning, *ex-officio*

Kelly Birky, Center for Innovation in Teaching and Learning, *ex-officio*

Katie Dalpiaz, Center for Innovation in Teaching and Learning, *ex-officio*

John Hart, Office of Professional Education, *ex-officio*

Anna Mehl, Office of the Provost, *ex-officio*

Dear Colleagues,

Thank you for agreeing to serve as a member of the reconstituted Online Learning Advisory Committee (OLAC). OLAC is a standing committee reporting to the Vice Provost for Undergraduate Education and managed by the Visiting Director of the Office of Online Learning. Eden Haycraft, Director of Graduate Programs in the School of Labor and Employment Relations and Sangeetha Gopalakrishnan, Assistant Dean for Online and Learning Innovation at the College of Education, will co-chair this committee for 2023-2024.

The committee's primary mission remains facilitating constructive discourse among colleges, fostering collaboration to address pertinent issues, and ensuring the continuous improvement of our online courses and programs. Your insights are critical as we navigate the ever-expanding landscape of digital education.

As we embrace the transformative potential of technology-enhanced learning, it has become evident that we need to adapt our committee's structure and purpose to better serve our diverse community.

The rapid advancement of technology, particularly the rise of generative artificial intelligence (A.I.), is reshaping the landscape of online teaching and learning. This trend, along with other changing technologies, challenges us to stay abreast of innovations and consider how they can be harnessed to enhance online education further.

For the 2023-2024 Academic Year, I request that OLAC focus on the following key areas:

1. Digital Education Strategy: Offer best practices on policy questions related to online education and its administration across campus.
2. Innovation and Technology: Provide feedback on the latest trends and technologies in online education and consider how emerging technologies and innovative teaching methods can be integrated into online learning programs. This includes ensuring online learning initiatives are accessible to all students, including those with disabilities.
3. Student Belongingness: Consider how to support online student connectivity and engagement with campus life at the University of Illinois.

The OLAC's role is twofold: it serves as both a platform for the exchange of information and ideas across various campus units and as an advisory body to the university's leadership on matters related to online education. Both functions are important to our success as an institution. The Provost is committed to supporting online education, and your committee plays an important role in realizing our goals. Your OLAC appointments are effective immediately and conclude on June 1, 2024. We wholeheartedly appreciate your dedication to this crucial responsibility.

Sincerely,

A black and white photo of a signature

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Kevin Jackson  
Vice Provost for Undergraduate Education