Title: Assessment Procedures, Strategies, and Challenges in an eLearning Environment

Facilitator: Peter Ricci, EdD, CHA, CHSE, CRME, Director, Hospitality Management Program, College of Business

Focus: President Saunders charged an eLearning task force in the summer of 2010 to explore eLearning opportunities at FAU. As a result of the committee’s work, the Center for eLearning (CeL) was developed and is now operational at FAU. Over the next five years, the center director is charged with enhancing our faculty’s involvement in eLearning – expanding course numbers, putting faculty through training, assisting faculty with “first time” teaching using eLearning, etc.

One of the biggest concerns faculty members have with a course transition to an eLearning environment is the student assessment process. How are assessments performed? How are assessments created? Will grades become inflated? How can one incorporate variety in assessments? What practices are being used elsewhere on campus that may work for the individual looking to convert to an eLearning format? Etc.

Hence, this faculty learning community (FLC) will explore, discuss, integrate, and evaluate multiple methods of assessment in an eLearning environment. The group will be charged each meeting to utilize and learn a new assessment method/process. Over the 2-semester time frame, faculty members will be exposed to objective testing, term papers, essay exams, multiple objective question options, Publisher-created test banks, randomized question presentation, etc. Besides the methods, eLearning assessment challenges will be discussed: academic integrity (i.e., plagiarism), technical support, “best practices”, et al.

Outcomes: Outcomes include, 1) the accumulation of knowledge of eLearning assessment strategies and procedures using the Blackboard courseware management system, 2) dissemination of eLearning assessment strategies and procedures to one’s peers within his or her respective FAU department, and, 3) dissemination of eLearning assessment strategies, challenges, and procedures to FAU faculty, staff, and administrators via a group panel.

Specific outcomes will be:

- Ability to define and discuss eLearning with FAU peer faculty and serve as the assessment subject matter experts during the campus-wide movement to a wider eLearning environment
- Exhibit knowledge of multiple methods of eLearning assessment techniques within the Blackboard courseware management system through course implementation
- Have the skill set necessary to create, implement, and administer eLearning assessments as stated above into a live FAU eLearning course section no later than fall, 2012
• Demonstrate an understanding of the challenges facing those who incorporate eLearning assessments versus traditional formats (via FLC discussions and a literature review of manuscripts from global faculty peers)
• Present an “eLearning Assessment Techniques” seminar to peer faculty members within one’s home department (no later than summer, 2012)
• Effectively use and demonstrate eLearning assessment techniques/programs/software via peer demonstration during regular FLC meetings
• Participate on an FLC group panel at a future “FAU Teaching With Technology Showcase” during the 2012 academic year with a topic specific to eLearning Assessment Strategies and Challenges

**Potential Meeting Time:** The Faculty Learning Community (FLC) will meet on selected Fridays during the fall, 2011 and spring, 2012 semesters. A potential meeting time is 11am - 1:30pm with faculty bringing lunch. The location has not yet been determined.

**Stipend:** Participants will receive a $1,000 stipend for active participation in the FLC and upon fulfilling all FLC expectations. These expectations include attendance at 80% of the group meetings, participation in the FLC’s project(s) and the communication of the project outcomes (see above), and completion of the end of experience feedback survey.