

Attendance Verification Discussion

At the recent Council of Deans meeting, the Provost requested that the Deans of both Undergraduate and Graduate studies push out communication on the need to verify attendance in courses beginning in Spring, 2021. Attendance verification is necessary to meet the federal Financial Aid reporting requirements. While it is recognized that this is added burden for faculty, at the graduate level the easiest way to meet this goal would be to build a syllabus quiz in Canvas that all students complete in the first week. This may be the simplest because once set up by the faculty member it could be done without added work by the faculty member.

It is somewhat complicated but below are our initial thoughts:

Step 1. Build SSO (Single Sign-On) for the first time students log into their Canvas course shell. They would have to attest that they are in the course (similar to the Covid attestation employees have to complete). Hopefully, this would not require so much work on the part of OIT.

Step 2. Create a Canvas module for every course. This could take the form of a syllabus quiz, which might be difficult for some graduate courses, or some attestation that students have read the Code of Academic Integrity, or something else. This could not be done for the Spring, because the person doing this on the Canvas team is on paternity leave.

In order for Step 2 to work, every faculty member would have to use the modules function in Canvas. Currently, around 80% of the faculty use modules. The Provost would have to “twist the arms” of only 20% of the faculty.