

Resolution to Create the Innovation Laboratory

Whereas in response to the public health COVID-19 crisis SUNY Old Westbury transitioned to remote teaching during the Spring 2020 semester which has continued through both the Fall 2020 and Spring 2021 semesters, and

Whereas the faculty rose to the challenge of reestablishing their teaching practice in new or unfamiliar modes of instruction including remote synchronous and remote hybrid/blended, and

Whereas there is already a Distance Learning Policy¹, which formally requires that faculty must complete the appropriate modality training offered by Distance Learning in order to teach in hybrid and NET (asynchronous online) modalities, and

Whereas faculty who have already been trained in asynchronous online and/or hybrid/blended teaching modalities will maintain credentials for teaching in those modalities, and

Whereas there have been no previous training modules in Remote synchronous teaching, and

Whereas the policy requiring training in hybrid/blended teaching was suspended to give faculty flexibility in using asynchronous elements in combination with Remote synchronous instruction during the crisis, and

Whereas individual experiential learning risks missing possibilities and implementing less than optimum solutions that exposure to alternative approaches and reflection on successes and failures can help avoid, and

Whereas faculty experience with Remote synchronous teaching is currently the best source of knowledge about best practices and potential pitfalls of this modality, and

Whereas faculty who adopted hybrid/blended structures combining asynchronous and Remote synchronous instruction would seem to be likely to benefit more from collegial interactions to round out their familiarity with the best practices and potential pitfalls of hybrid/blended pedagogy than from more standardized training sessions at this point,

Be it therefore resolved that the Teaching Learning Resource Committee, along with the Center for Excellence in Teaching and Learning and the Office for Distance Learning create the Innovation Laboratory as described in the Call for Proposals (attached) to share our expertise and support faculty in teaching in innovative ways.

Sponsored by: Teaching Learning Resources Committee (TLRC);

¹ <https://www.oldwestbury.edu/policies/distance-learning-policies>