Working Group Members: David Alexander (Chair), Margaret Beier, John Greiner, Don Johnson, Kirsten Ostherr, Fred Oswald, Matt Taylor

Working Group Charge: To evaluate the costs and benefits related to developing a strong online instructional presence at Rice, to issue recommendations on its implementation, and to address general policy issues related to online communication.

Guiding Principles:

- Enhance students’ on-campus experience
- Establish unique Rice content and pedagogy
- Protect and enhance the Rice brand
- Maintain a forward-looking and flexible approach
- Provide broad access to quality education to non-Rice students

Although the potential for generating revenue is a consideration, it is subordinate to the guiding principles in developing our online presence.
Recommendations

1. Establish a Faculty Committee for Online Education

   o principal role to ensure that the University’s actions in online education are consistent with the guiding principles

   o specific responsibility to represent the faculty in developing and supporting Rice’s online presence

   o committee membership should reflect a broad representation from across the University

   o Three main areas of activity
     • Cultivate the Culture of an Online Presence
     • Build and Maintain an Online Presence
     • Monitor our Online Presence for its Impact on the Classroom and University

1A: We recommend that the Faculty Senate work with the FCOE and the university administration to develop an organizational structure that effectively covers all issues associated with online education at Rice.
Recommendations

2. Provide necessary resources for the development and implementation of online courses

**DEVELOPMENT:**

- Faculty time for development of course
- Faculty incentives and institutional acknowledgement
- In-house instructional and associated technical expertise
- Financial resources for the equipment
- Faculty training in online pedagogy
- Repository for online content

**IMPLEMENTATION:**

- A learning technology infrastructure
- Mechanism for alignment with institutional requirements
- Development of a strategy for external distribution
- Development of platform-appropriate evaluation strategies
Recommendations

3. Establish a Long-term Strategy Committee

- Primary purpose is to develop a strategy for Rice's long-term engagement in the online environment
- Predominantly focus on external issues, e.g. credit
- Comprised of a broad faction of highly-regarded members of the University community: faculty, staff and administration
- Charge to identify and address key issues in online education that potentially could affect Rice’s educational mission and standing

Some specific high profile issues identified in Appendix 1 of report