To: Dennis Vanairsdale, Chair
    Faculty Senate

From: Reid Sunahara,
    Instructor
    Chair, Distance Education Subcommittee

The current Community College Survey of Student Engagement (CCSSE) reports have been instrumental in helping the college to assess and subsequently increase student engagement in many areas of the college. The CCSSE benchmarks – Active and Collaborative, Faculty-Student Interaction, Academic Challenge, Student Effort, and Support for Learners – are all proven to be strong intermediate variables leading to improved student academic achievement and learning.

However, in its representative sampling (10% of students both part-time and full-time across courses and instructional time blocks) CCSSE does not include distance education courses. As a result, we have little comparable data on student engagement in the distance education environment. Without this data we cannot make improvements in engagement, achievement, and learning. In order to help the college meet its student engagement benchmarks, the Distance Education Subcommittee would like to propose that:

1) the subcommittee work with the Office for Institutional Effectiveness to design an appropriate assessment tool that assesses and evaluates student engagement by adapting current CCSSE indicators in online courses,
2) and identify improvement strategies that address the highest and lowest of areas of engagement as reported by CCSSE for the campus.

We would like to request formal support from the faculty senate in this endeavor. We are anticipating using the adapted CCSSE survey with approximately XXX students. Data will be aggregated, as they are on the campus-wide CCSSE, and no faculty will be specifically identified in the assessment and evaluation. Results will be posted at both the Faculty Senate and OFIE web pages.