

**Adventist Virtual Learning Network
Higher Education Recommendations
2004**

The following five recommendations are a product of the higher education subcommittee meetings held at Pacific Union College during the 2004 Adventist Virtual Learning Network meetings.

1) Course Management System

- a) AVLN recommends that ADEC member institutions adopt a common Course Management System and look into the possibility of a single CMS installation on a common server. First we would like to affirm the recent actions of ADEC and its CMS subcommittee on these issues. It is our feeling that this would offer the following benefits.
 - i) A more user friendly environment for faculty and students.
 - ii) Assist in the transition to a systems approach to the creation of online learning environments.

2) Block Tuition Plan

- a) AVLN recommends that a system of payment for online classes be developed where online classes offered by ADEC member institutions be incorporated in a students block tuition plan at the institution where the student is in residence.
 - i) We find this issue to be pivotal and of the pivotal importance. Failure to meet this challenge will result in the failure to realize the potential of this form of learning environment for Seventh-day Adventist students and the future of ADEC and its contribution to Adventist Education.
 - ii) Currently students take general education classes online from non-SDA colleges and universities for as little as \$7 per credit hour. Initial studies have given reason to suspect that SDA students are taking greater numbers of online classes from non-SDA sources thus reducing the percentage of classes taken within SDA Higher Education. If this trend continues the unique character of an SDA education could be in jeopardy. A collaborative effort by ADEC member institutions could create a significant reduction in this trend.

3) Coordinated Course Development Plan

- a) AVLN recommends that consideration be given to developing a strategic plan for online course development and recruitment of talented professors with online pedagogy skills. A coordinated plan for SDA online education would:
 - i) increase the probability of meeting student needs.
 - ii) decrease replication of courses.
 - iii) enhance the environment for faculty collaboration in course development.

4) Course Catalogue

- a) AVLN recommends that all courses offered by ADEC member institutions be listed online as soon as possible and that the system of submitting classes and making them available to students should be streamlined. Once a class is created and put on a college site it should also become available to students via the ADEC site.
 - i) Currently there are many classes being taught online at member institutions and not available on the ADEC site.
 - ii) If the ADEC site is to be of real value to students it must be complete and accurate. Failure to include all available courses greatly reduces the value of the ADEC site and thus the conceptual basis of ADEC.

5) Intellectual Property Rights Statement

- a) AVLN recommends that ADEC make available to member institutions a common intellectual property rights statement that covers not only course development but student content.