

Cal State Online New Direction

1. What is the new direction for Cal State Online and its Board?

Cal State Online will become the overall external “storefront” for all CSU online efforts system-wide including current and planned Cal State Online degree programs, existing stateside and self-support online degree programs and individual courses as required in AB 386. Internally, it is being discussed that the current Cal State Online Board may transition into a new proposed Commission that will serve as a system-wide coordinating group advising the Council of Presidents.

2. How does the changed Pearson contract impact existing and planned programs through Cal State Online?

The newly negotiated agreement with Pearson gives more flexibility to campuses in choosing centralized services. There is no required LMS or set of services in order for campuses to be listed under the Cal State Online umbrella. Optional services will include the following with estimated costs (to date):

Pearson LMS and help desk: \$45/student/course (self-support); \$30/student/course (state-support)

Pearson instructional design: contract basis

Pearson faculty training: contract basis

3. How will campuses be able to utilize other additional services such as those provided by Inside Track (yield/retention coaching), and for marketing of online programs?

It is planned that system-level agreements will be negotiated that will allow campuses to take advantage of optional services on a contractual basis.

4. Will there be charges to campuses and/or Extended University for the listing of online programs on the Cal State Online site?

No. This will be considered a baseline service for all campuses.

5. Will there be any system-wide marketing of all online programs under the Cal State Online storefront?

Yes, it is likely that there will be overall Cal State Online “brand” marketing and communication efforts.

6. Will overhead be charged for specific online programs, as estimated in earlier Cal State Online financial models?

Any such arrangements involving overhead are likely to be program specific, with optional participation by campuses.

7. Will there be continued standardization in terms of schedules (8-week terms)?

This has not been determined, although there may be practical reasons to encourage some standardization.

8. Will there be standardization in assessment for online courses/programs?

This is to be determined. AB 386 requires system-wide reporting on effectiveness of online teaching-learning.

9. How will the Cal State Online central operation be funded?

The details of on-going funding still need to be confirmed, but it is expected that base services will be funded through Academic Affairs at the Chancellor's Office, with additional optional services supported financially by state and self-supported units at the campus level.

10. What is the timeline for these changes?

A small task force of the Cal State Online Board has been tasked with delivering a brief description of the mission/vision and basic structure of a new Commission on Online learning for consideration by the full Board at the December 4th meeting, and then a recommendation to the Council of Presidents shortly thereafter.

The renegotiated Pearson contract is in the final stages of execution.