

February 1, 2017

Motion

from the

Distance Learning Committee of the Faculty Assembly (Utica Site)

We recommend the Governance Council endorse the Quality Matters® program for online courses/programs offered by SUNY Poly.

Rationale

Quality Matters provides the following support for the online environment:

- Evidence-based course design rubrics and quality standards.
- Certification process for online courses/programs and instructors.
- Use of ongoing research to periodically update the rubrics and standards.
- Instructor training.
- Potential to market Quality Matters certified courses and programs.

More information is available at: <https://www.qualitymatters.org/>.

The Director of Distance Learning (Mr. Richard Shelton) recommended we adopt Quality Matters as opposed to the OPEN SUNY Center for Online Teaching Excellence (COTE) Quality Rubric (OSCQR). The Quality Matters program is nationally recognized whereas the SUNY quality rubric is intended for use in New York State. National recognition is important because in September 2016, the State Board of Regents approved New York's participation in the State Authorization Reciprocity Agreement (SARA). This agreement will make it easier for students in other states to take online courses offered by New York State institutions of higher learning. However, the New York State institutions must to apply to participate and they will need to demonstrate quality online offerings. As soon as the State Education Department gets its application procedure in place, SUNY Poly will apply. If approved, students in other states will take our online courses at near in-state rates. Richard Shelton said the out-of-state students will pay 102% of in-state tuition. That is quite a bargain compared to what they have been paying. This will make our online offerings much more attractive to out-of-state students. Out-of-state students are more apt to recognize the Quality Matters certification. For more information about SARA, please see: <http://www.nysed.gov/news/2016/state-board-regents-approves-new-yorks-participation-reciprocity-agreement-distance>.

The program would satisfy the Middle States CHE requirement to demonstrate quality in online offerings. This is part of the current Standard 13.