

UCET Teaching Fellows Program

Application: Gary Kern

April 24, 2015

Project Summary

The Judd Leighton School of Business and Economics (JLSB&E) has undertaken an ambitious and comprehensive revision of the curriculum for our Masters of Business Administration (MBA) degree program. It has been many years since such a significant revision of our MBA program has been implemented. In fact, the last such revision was before I joined our faculty in 1992!

One key factor in the new curriculum, approved by the faculty as a whole, was to design all MBA core courses to be delivered in a hybrid format. The central goal to the hybrid design agreement is to afford our students a consistent delivery approach, a quicker pace to completion, and greater scheduling flexibility. The early signs are that current and prospective students find this change very appealing.

Although some of the faculty assigned to teach the first round of new MBA classes (scheduled for fall 2015) have experience in designing courses for hybrid delivery, many do not. The success and sustainability of the graduate business programs in general rest on the successful implementation of this curriculum revision. The work that these faculty members invest this summer in course design, and this fall in course rollout, will be critical to the success of the curriculum implementation and the future of the MBA program.

I have designed undergraduate and graduate courses for hybrid delivery. In fact, the MBA course I have recently taught (Operations Management) has been delivered in a hybrid format for the past five semesters. PN Saksena, Associate Dean and Director of Graduate Business Programs, has praised my course design and has asked me to present workshops about hybrid course design for our colleagues.

If selected as an initial UCET Teaching Fellow, I propose to take a very active role in guiding and supporting my colleagues' work as they design these initial hybrid MBA courses. I will offer workshops and work one-on-one with faculty as they design their courses during the summer of 2015. I will attend their classes in the fall, and offer feedback and follow-up meetings to support their implementation during the roll-out of the new courses.

I am seeking \$2,500 to support my work during the summer of 2015. I expect that, although my efforts will last well into the fall semester, my primary time allocation will be during the summer as colleagues work to design their hybrid courses and materials.

Applicant Qualifications

I have employed “flipped,” online, and hybrid course delivery approaches in my classes. My work involving flipped and hybrid course design was recognized as a key selection aspect when I was chosen for the 2014 Indiana University South Bend Distinguished Teaching Award.

In the past, I served on the Distance Education Advisory Board for our campus. For the last two years, I served on the JLSB&E Graduate Business Programs Task Force that developed the revised curriculum since approved by our faculty. PN Saksena, Associate Dean and Director of Graduate Business Programs, has asked me to present my course delivery approaches for various faculty groups over the past two semesters.

This spring semester, I Co-Chaired (with Gwynn Mettetal) the UCET Active Learning Institute. I presented a specific workshop addressing flipping the classroom using hybrid design techniques.

As mentioned earlier, I have designed my own courses using “flipped,” hybrid, and online delivery. My graduate course has been delivered in a hybrid format for the past five semesters. I have also offered an undergraduate course (“Computing in Business”) using both hybrid and online delivery.

My CV can be provided upon request.

Estimated Timeline and Budget

Starting around June 1, I plan to begin holding workshops with faculty assigned to teach fall 2015 MBA courses. The workshops will review concepts and techniques related to hybrid delivery and course design. I will also meet periodically with individual faculty to discuss their specific plans for course design. Some colleagues are unaware of resources we already have available on campus, so I will also serve as an intermediary between the JLSB&E faculty and experts on campus (people like Kael Kanczuzewski, Firm Faith Watson, Amy Pawlosky, Joel Langston, and others) that can help faculty with specific technologies and techniques.

Around August 1, faculty members will start to finalize their course design and materials. At this point, I plan to review their work with them individually, and hold general meetings where they can again share ideas with each other.

As the fall semester begins, I plan to attend specific class meetings to observe and provide advice. I will continue to serve in an informal advisory role as faculty members continue the rollout of the new MBA curriculum.

The \$2,500 will recognize my primary time commitment during the summer of 2015.

Statements of Support

I solicited letters of support from

- Associate Dean PN Saksena, Director of Graduate Business Programs, and
- Dean Rob Ducoffe

They follow on separate pages.