



**TO:** Higher Education Committee

**FROM:** John L. D'Agati *John L. D'Agati*

**SUBJECT:** Panel on On-Line Learning in Higher Education

**DATE:** March 4, 2013

**AUTHORIZATION(S):** *John B. ...*

**SUMMARY**

### **Panel Presentation**

A Panel consisting of members of the higher education community has been convened and will address the Board to discuss topics related to on-line learning. Topics will include national trends in on-line learning, including Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs), how NY-based colleges are responding to the expansion of on-line learning (how are assessments being made, how are faculty being trained), and an example of what kinds of partnerships higher education institutions are exploring to incorporate on-line learning into their programs.

Members of the Panel are:

- Frank Madayas, Senior Advisor to the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation
- Thomas P. Mackey, Dean of the Center for Distance Learning, SUNY Empire State College
- Todd Hutton, President of Utica College

Attached are the bios of each Panel member.

### **Background Information**

Over the last 20 years there has been significant growth in the delivery of higher education courses and programs through online technology. Last year the number of students taking at least one online course every year is well into the millions. These courses and programs provide unprecedented access to higher education, allowing millions to pursue a degree or obtain knowledge without the limitations of time or their geographic location.

Seeing this opportunity, many traditional higher education institutions and many non-tradition organizations have developed online courses and programs. One of the largest higher education institutions in the nation has enrolled hundreds of thousands of students in degree programs. Nationally, hundreds of institutions offer online courses and degrees, including public, private not-for-profit and private for-profit institutions.

More recently there have been two major changes in the field. One is the recognition that many online providers of higher education do not always abide by all of the federal requirements established to protect the interest of the student and the taxpayer. Several reports from the U.S. Government and Legislative offices raise questions about various activities such as advertising and recruitment practices, career advisement the application of student loans and the overall quality of the courses and programs offered. In addition, these programs often have a high failure or drop out rate, with many students leaving with little to show for their efforts except high student loan debt.

A second is the continued growth of free course material, and courses that are available online. Organizations such as Coursera <https://www.coursera.org/> have enrolled millions of people around the world. These offering have come to be commonly known as Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs) and are attracting the attention of the entire education community.

Attachment

## Bios of Panel Members

### **Thomas P. Mackey**

Thomas Mackey is Dean of the Center for Distance Learning (CDL) at SUNY Empire State College. Previously he was Associate Dean at The Sage Colleges and a faculty member in Information Studies at the University at Albany. His research and publications examine such areas as information literacy, metaliteracy, social media, open and online learning, and assessment. Tom is editor of four books with Trudi Jacobson for Neal-Schuman Publishers including their most recent *Teaching Information Literacy Online* (2011).

He has presented at numerous conferences, contributed to book chapters and has published several articles in peer reviewed journals, including *First Monday*, *College & Research Libraries*, *Computers & Education*, *The Journal of General Education*, *College Teaching*, *Rhizomes*, *The Journal of Information Science* and *The Journal of Education for Library and Information Science*. One of his recent publications is "Transparency as a Catalyst for Interaction and Participation in Open Learning Environments."

### **Todd Hutton**

The Board of Trustees of Utica College appointed Dr. Todd Hutton as the 8th president and 13th chief executive officer on August 1, 1998.

Prior to joining Utica College, Dr. Hutton was the vice president for academic administration at Willamette University in Salem, Oregon, where he served for eight years. Before that he was assistant to the president at Austin College in Sherman, TX, for four years, where he also served on the graduate faculty of the Austin Teacher Program.

Dr. Hutton received an A.B. degree in English from Davidson College in 1970, a master's of education in school psychology/psychological foundations from the University of Florida in 1972, and a Ph.D. in Education (Sociology of Education & Comparative Education) from Duke University in 1982. In October 2007, he received an honorary doctorate from Dong-eui University in Pusan, Korea.

Dr. Hutton has brought to Utica College a wealth of experience in higher education administration, particularly in the small college environment. During his tenure as president, Utica College has witnessed dramatic growth and transformation. Dr. Hutton instituted major reform in the campus governance, reorganized the Board of Trustees committee structure, and focused attention on the integration of liberal arts education and professional studies. Under his leadership, the College adopted a long-range strategic plan, a campus master plan, and an integrated marketing plan. UC now offers 20 master's degrees, two professional doctorates, and online programs that serve more than 700 students. In addition, the varsity athletic programs have grown in number from 12 to the current total of 25.

## **Frank Mayadas**

A. Frank Mayadas has served as a Senior Advisor to the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation since 2010, advising the Foundation on its continuing grants in the Anytime, Anyplace Learning Program. From 1992 to 2009, he served as a Program Director at the Foundation, helping craft the Foundation's grantmaking strategy in online learning, globalization, industry studies, and career choice in technical fields.

Prior to coming to the Sloan Foundation, Frank Mayadas spent 27 years at the IBM Corporation. He was Vice President, Research Division, Technical Plans and Controls from 1991 to 1992; Vice President, Technology and Solutions Development, Application Solutions Line of Business, from 1989 to 1991; General Manager, University and College Systems, IBM Personal Systems Line of Business, from 1988 to 1989; Secretary of IBM's Corporate Management Board and the IBM Management Committee, from 1987 to 1988; and the IBM Management Committee, from 1987 to 1988; IBM Research Division Vice President and Director, Almaden Research Center, San Jose, California from 1983 to 1987; and an IBM Research Division Director, Technical Planning and Controls, from 1981 to 1983.

Dr. Mayadas received a Ph.D. in Applied Physics from Cornell in 1965, and a B.S. from the Colorado School of Mines in 1961.

He has more than 35 published papers in Systems, Devices, and Solid State Physics, and holds several patents and awards from IBM. He is a fellow of the IEEE, a member of the American Physical Society, and a past Director of the Society of Engineering Science. He has served as a member of the National Advisory Board for Georgia Tech, and the Advisory Board of the College of Engineering, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. He is currently a member of the Advisory Board for the College of Engineering, University of Florida.