

## 8. Grant Evaluation and Administration

**Goal 8A.** An independent evaluation will be conducted to determine whether the funding helped OSU Extended Campus meet the project goals.

### Summary

#### **Goal 8A. External Project Evaluation**

The external evaluation proceeded as planned and contracted for. Project outcomes were:

- The development of nearly one hundred courses,
- Creation of a comprehensive course development strategy, and
- Addressing faculty and administrative issues that arise from the new course development strategy and the integration of academic and distance education units that the strategy entails.

When course development exceeded the goal of creating 99 distance delivered courses and the infrastructure for course development and faculty services was in place, the external project evaluation process continued but put more attention to the strategic side of the project. This included assessing the long-term effects of the distance education initiative after the project completion. Therefore, the external evaluation over this extended project period focused on organizational and cultural changes in the Departments, Colleges, University, and community in general, as a result of this OSU Distance Education Project. The external evaluator was particularly interested in OSU Extended Campus' 2002-2007 Strategic Plan and its relationship to projected long-term effects of this project. Assessment focused on how this long-term plan will interact with the university's strategic goals and integrate Ecampus with other units throughout the University such as Colleges, Departments, and Service offices. The external evaluation assessed how colleges and departments collaborate with the Extended Campus and how they organize their joint cooperation to achieve long-term goals. One of the areas being assessed was on the newly proposed Ecampus revenue sharing (financial business) model, called E-RAM (Ecampus Resource Allocation Model).

Another aspect of the final year's evaluation has focused on the development of a continuous assessment process for Ecampus operations. This assessment process is an effort to make continuous improvement a consistent and ongoing part of the organization systems. Each unit in the organization has developed its own goals and aligned them with Ecampus' strategic plan. Data are gathered regularly to measure each unit's performance. Improvements will be made by addressing the gaps in performance or the recognized shortcomings.

Data for the external evaluator were collected based on progress made during each reporting period. A two-full-day site visit by the external evaluator was conducted over this project period to assess the progress and evaluate the organizational and cultural impacts and sustainability of the distance education initiative at OSU. The evaluator identified individuals she wanted to interview.

Twenty individuals, including top-level administrators in the University, Colleges, Departments, and Ecampus were interviewed. Specific data were collected and retrieved from the Extended Campus teams and other sources. The external evaluation report is included as *Appendix D*.