

## **Wright State Senate Quality Matters Resolution**

**Whereas,** faculty have primary responsibility for the oversight of curriculum, academic standards, and the assessment of student learning in accordance with principles of shared governance and academic freedom; and

**Whereas,** frequent leadership turnover and the use of internally developed, proprietary systems for online course design and review can result in inconsistencies, lack of transparency; and

**Whereas,** the recently updated [Title II Americans with Disabilities Act \(ADA\)](#) mandates that public universities ensure online classes meet accessibility guidelines by April 2026; and

**Whereas,** having Wright State belong to the [National Council for State Authorization Reciprocity Agreements \(NC-SARA\)](#) will manage reciprocity agreements among states to simplify the process for colleges and universities to offer online courses across state lines would require Wright State to provide evidence our distance education programs meet high-quality standards; and

**Whereas,** the Department of Education had mandated that distance education courses need to include [Regular and Substantive Interaction \(RSI\)](#) to be eligible for students to receive Student Financial Aid; and

**Whereas,** Quality Matters (QM) is a nationally recognized quality assurance framework that offers stable, research-based, and peer-reviewed standards that mitigate many of the issues associated with ad hoc or locally developed standards; and

**Whereas,** Quality Matters includes 42 review standards that provide specifics on how to develop high-quality courses in the areas of (1) Course overview and introduction, (2) Learning objectives, (3) Assessment and measurement, (4) Instructional materials, (5) Learning activities and learner interaction, (6) Course technology, (7) Learner support, and (8) Accessibility and usability; and

**Whereas,** the Quality Matters guidelines and standards would satisfy the requirements for the updated ADA and NC-SARA guidelines and would be an excellent start in satisfying the RSI requirements; and

**Whereas,** Ohio has the largest QM consortium in the United States that is comprised of over 60 higher education institutions, which makes it the largest state consortium affiliated with Quality Matters that results in reduced membership fees, cost-effective course reviews, professional development opportunities, collaborative community and networking, and access to certified reviewers and facilitators; and

**Whereas,** Many universities have adopted the Quality Matters framework to assess, evaluate, and ensure the quality of their institutions' online and blended courses; and

**Whereas,** Wright State University has previously adopted QM to provide professional development on how to design quality online courses to over 150 faculty; and

**Whereas,** Wright State University has used the QM Peer Review process to demonstrate online courses have been designed to meet high-quality standards;

**Now, therefore, be it resolved,** that the Faculty Senate endorses Quality Matters as the preferred framework for online and hybrid course design, development, and review at WSU; and

**Be it further resolved,** that Quality Matters should be used as the base framework for faculty to design distance education courses to satisfy the need to provide evidence of high-quality courses to outside organizations such as accreditors, NC-SARA, ADA, RSI, or other external organizations.

**Be it further resolved,** that any quality assurance set of online standards will never perfectly encompass all of the requirements for Wright State, but QM can be used as the foundation with any additional requirements added to the QM base; and

**Be it further resolved,** that any future systems or initiatives related to online course quality assurance must be developed with full faculty involvement and in alignment with nationally recognized frameworks such as QM; and

**Be it further resolved,** that WSU should prioritize and enhance faculty development, necessary release time, and support for developing quality distance education courses with accessibility that meet nationally recognized guidelines such as Quality Matters; and

**Be it further resolved,** that WSU should hire and train adequate support staff (i.e., Instructional Designers, Accessibility experts, etc.) and equip a suitable distance education office (i.e., hardware, software, recording studio, cameras, microphones, lighting, etc) to provide adequate support to faculty while developing their distance education classes to meet these quality assurance guidelines.