

Name of Principal Investigator: David Youhess

IITG Project Title (truncated): 2015-Buffalo (UB)-Youhess- Career Dev Online

1) Please consider the original timeline and deliverable targets. How is your project progressing compared with the original estimates?

The project has largely been on task with respect to the original timeline. Initial drafts of the content have been written and reviewed, creative services assistance has been contacted and we are in the beginning stages of formalizing the contract. An online platform for content delivery has been selected and a contract has been negotiated with the service provider. We have also made contact with external web development via our own institution's School of Engineering and Applied Sciences. We are currently recruiting computer science students to serve as interns for the spring semester to help with building interactive elements for the platform. Currently we are on track to have a test web site with content by the end of January. Video creation is one area that we will need to direct some additional efforts to continue to stay on track with our timeline.

2) How is spending progressing when compared with the original budget estimates? (You may also choose to detail issues regarding access to funds in the next three questions).

A challenge we consistently face is the lack of existent resources and personnel within the division of student affairs devoted to educational technology and pedagogical support. At UB, our department falls outside the division of academic affairs, where such resources are typically found. This makes access those resource more challenging than may be otherwise. Other challenges were observed in the difficulty of balancing the additional needs and goals of the project with the day-to-day tasks and responsibilities of team members.

3) Please provide feedback regarding your experience with the project execution, in particular any issues or roadblocks you've encountered that may have been unexpected.

The project has helped the team foster partnerships across campus. By engaging new partners from across both UB and the broader SUNY system, the team was able to generate additional ideas for content delivery and assessment as well as inform interested stakeholders at other SUNY institutions. The team also adopted a project management tool, Asana, which helped to identify tasks, manage the timeline and log progress to date.

4) What are your positive observations or pleasant surprises about your team's interaction or project process that might would be helpful to other PI's?

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5) Please describe any challenges you've encountered working with your project team that you've found solutions for that might be helpful to other PI's.

One of our challenges involved familiarizing ourselves with the available technology options and navigating a process to select one that would meet our basic needs and broader vision. To initiate this process, we invited an interdisciplinary team of professionals from across UB to join us for a half-day retreat to examine our current content and brainstorm how we might enhance its delivery in an online format while achieving standards of instructional design, technology use and assessment that are consistent with the medium. It was from this process that we expand our understanding and built new partnerships that have continued to be helpful. Additionally, by creating a rubric with our essential elements, we were able to conceptualize our criteria on a continuum and standardize a review process to aid us in our selection.