Carol and Lori - the Bacc Core committee (BCC) has been struggling this year with some issues related to e-campus courses in two areas: 1) bacc core courses that are available only online and 2) lab courses offered online.

1. BCC members are concerned about creating online bacc core courses that have no analogue with on-campus courses. Some of these great classes may be less available to on-campus students and may also be significantly different from on-campus bacc core courses. Are we creating a separate Bacc Core online? Issues about exam proctoring* have also been raised, especially for courses that are pre-requisites for other courses (although I think e-campus has ways to monitor this no one on the committee right now knows much about it).

2. We haven't seen a good model for delivering lab courses on line although chemistry has bought some professionally prepared "intro" labs that they are currently using and are proposing a two-course model where students do lecture components on line and labs somewhere in a lab (at a community college, a weekend seminar, or condensed summer session). This two-course model begs the question about whether labs and lectures need to complement and build on each other and whether asynchronous labs are efficacious. The other lab model we've seen is from biology and looks more like biology experiences (e.g., growing mold in the refrigerator, looking at different meat cuts in the grocery stores to see muscles, etc.) than labs about biological/chemical/physical processes.

Can you, as chairs of your respective committees, share any ideas, thoughts, approaches that could help us as we review applications for online bacc core courses? I'd be glad to talk with you and/or have you come and talk with committee members if that works better.

Thanks, in advance - Denise

* For the Ecampus exam proctor policy, please see:  
http://ecampus.oregonstate.edu/services/proctoring/proctorguidelines.htm