Office of Institutional Research and Assessment

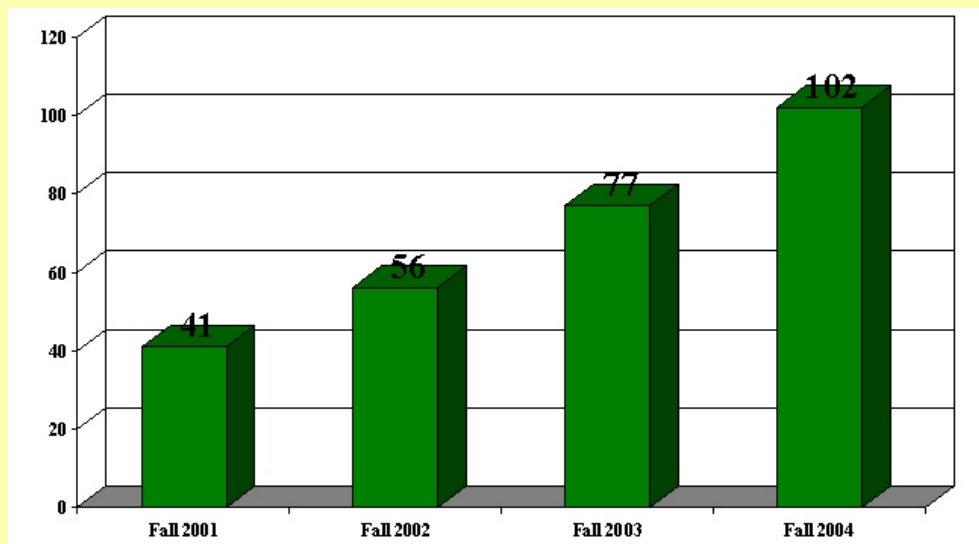## Cyber-Space = Found Space: The net effect of Off-Campus Delivered Instruction on Campus Facilities

Research Brief # 14   Fall 2004

- Southeastern has been in need of additional classroom space for a long time. In recent years Southeastern has built or renovated several buildings in an attempt to meet this increased need.

- With ever-expanding technological capabilities, increased technology-savvy professors, and increased demand from students for internet driven courses, Southeastern has steadily increased the number of courses offered that are completely delivered via the internet (see chart below). These courses do not use standard physical classroom space.

- As the number of out-of-classroom courses being offered at Southeastern increase, university classroom space is being freed up for additional usage.

Number of 100% Internet Courses Offered

●　According to the Louisiana Board of Regents, a classroom is fully utilized if there are 30 hours of courses taught per week in that classroom. Because the average course taught on the internet is a three hour course, for every ten internet courses taught the equivalent of one university classroom is freed up for additional usage in that semester.

Number of Equivalent Classrooms

Fall 2001	4.1
Fall 2002	5.6
Fall 2003	7.7
Fall 2004	10.2

●　The university space is relatively fixed in size. The cost to use its space is based on the cost of utilities (electricity and gas) times the square footage. Other factors such as water and sewage costs are based on student headcount.

●　Southeastern's average classroom is 772 square feet in size and current figures used to estimate fixed cost for electricity and gas is $1.30 per square foot. Based on these figures, it costs on average $1,004 per room to heat/cool and light the room per year. By utilizing cyberspace, Southeastern has saved approximately $10,237 in utility related expenses related to facilities in Fall 2004.

●　As Southeastern increases its diverse delivery methods, classrooms are freed-up and costs are saved which can be used to help provide the technology infrastructure and training needed to deliver via the internet. By using the freed-up classroom space, Southeastern will forego the capital spending necessary to build additional classroom facilities to accommodate the increased class offerings.