

Faculty Senate Technology Utilization Committee

Annual Report to Faculty Senate Executive Committee – April 11, 2011

Committee Chair: Diane Keasler (CON);

Committee Members: Muriel Nero (LIB); Brett Lunceford(AS); David Feinstein(CIS); Tom Meyer(CON); Kevin Green (COM); Kathryn Toelkyn(AS); Mark Adams(ENG)

The **Faculty Senate Technology Utilization Committee** met 4 times during the 2010-2011 Academic Year. Issues and topics of discussion include the following items:

1. Wireless connectivity across campus – an inventory was conducted by Computer Services indicating areas with partial wireless connectivity. Priority has been given to student access areas. Areas with partial connectivity are:
 - Administration
 - Allied Health 2nd & 3rd floor offices (classrooms & auditoriums have access)
 - HPE (very limited – concrete block construction)
 - Laidlaw (few locations)
 - MCOB (3rd floor, 2 lobbies, Learning Resource Ctr);
 - Meisler Hall
 - Mitchell Center
 - Research Park III (formerly HSB)
 - Student Center – some public spaces
 - Visual arts (80%)
 - Baldwin Campus (DSL)
2. Sungard Luminis Portal project – This project involves creating a campus identity with single login – access to email, online courses, PAWS, communities and organizations across campus – projected roll out was February 2011. Deadline wasn't met. Project still under review and revision by Academic Computing.
3. Dr. Johnson convened committee to research standardization of course/teacher evaluations across campus – items from new forms being tested in selected courses in Fall term – coordinated through Office of Institutional Research. The Committee recommended going with ScanTron. A beta-test of a proposed course and teacher evaluation form is in development.
4. OLL continues to offer timely training for faculty on technologies used to enhance teaching and learning in the classroom and online. A BootCamp for new instructors was offered twice in the 2010-11 time frame. The class was well attended and participants indicate favorable reviews. Dr. Brenda Litchfield and Dr. Jack Dempsey conducted the Boot Camp.
5. PETAL offerings have increased over the past several semesters offering faculty opportunity to present and to participate in forums and discussions of new and alternative methods of teaching. Utilizing technology and tools such as video-capture, social networking (Twitter, Facebook, LinkedIn).

6. Online Student Assistants Program – new program being developed in which student assistants are trained by OLL to assist faculty in development of teaching tools for online and web-blended/hybrid courses. A work-in-progress that is housed under the new ILC.
7. Email Digest – This project has been discussed at Academic Computing as alternative for the mass emails received daily at 7:05 p.m. – items received from faculty list are grouped by topic and digested – faculty will receive notification that something has been added to digest and can review as needed. Problems occur when prioritizing important and urgent messages. A proposal was submitted to President Moulton and approved by him. Academic Computing is working toward implementing this digesting process in the 2011 academic year.
8. The FS TUC informed Senators that Telecommunications using VOIP can:
 - re-route voicemail messages to Groupwise email accounts as sound files and
 - can route voicemail to cellular devices (BBs) if requested.
 - Conference calls utilizing VOIP single contact can accommodate up to 35 callers – contact Telecom. for connection or more info. Can be used for student contact; call-in for meetings; panel discussions, etc. (no charge)
9. UCEL Dr. Dempsey organized and coordinated the committee to research and recommend a new LMS platform for the University that would continue to offer quality online learning and also be more cost efficient for the University as a whole. Research began in Fall 2009 and concluded with a recommendation to President Moulton to begin a contract with SAKAI. The current contract with eCollege has a three year commitment at a lower rate. And the end of the 3 year period SAKAI will become the majority LMS on campus.
 - research was completed on 4 LMS contenders (Blackboard, Moodle, Pearson-eCollege & rSmart Sakai)
 - A comprehensive analysis report was written, reviewed by USA faculty, and presented to President Moulton in November, 2010.
 - UCEL sub-committees continuing work under coordination of Dr. Exline & OIR assuring that the University is meeting or exceeding SACS best practices for electronically offered degree programs
 - UCEL sub-committee is conducting analysis of testing environments – reviewing test security and testing centers
 - An USAOnline/Sakai Advisory Committee has been appointed by Dr. Johnson to provide input on all issues regarding the University's migration to the Sakai Learning Management System
 - A Sakai Early Adopter's Group has been formed and those persons are currently completing a certification webinar which provides an introduction to the Sakai platform.
10. Dr. Johnson convened an Ad Hoc Committee to study marketing online learning
 - a review of the usaonline portal was conducted in Summer semester and the usaonline landing page was revised and updated prior to Fall term
 - the committee is considering best practices for marketing the USA brand and developing support services for online students that are comparative to services provided to on-campus students

11. March 9, 2011: Dr. Johnson circulated an email to faculty: “In order to better integrate and focus faculty development, e-learning, and learning management system administration resources, the University has established a new Innovation in Learning Center. The ILC will incorporate four existing units into one unit administratively within Academic Affairs. The former units are the Program for the Enhancement of Teaching and Learning (PETAL), the Office of E-Learning, the Online Learning Lab, and USAOnline (USA's Online Campus). Dr. Jack Dempsey has been appointed Director of the Innovation in Learning Center. Individuals working with the former units will be assigned to the new Center. Teaching and learning workshops will continue to be held at both University Commons (UCOM) and USA Library locations for at least the next 18 months. Combining faculty development, e-learning, and learning management system administration will limit duplication of resources, create greater staff efficiencies, and provide targeted support to faculty and staff in what is becoming an increasingly complex instructional system. As ILC's name implies, the new Center will promote innovation in learning, support professional development initiatives, and expand the collaborative role of learning management systems.”

Respectfully submitted:

Diane S. Keasler, Chair, FS Technology Utilization Comm. 2010-11.