Committee on Academic Technology  
Nov. 16, 2012 Meeting  
Approved Minutes

Recorder: Bruce Boyden

Call to Order at 1:33 pm

Members present: Gary Meyer (co-chair), Bruce Boyden, Margaret Cinto, Mike Class, Steven Crane, Kathy Lang, Thomas Lenoir, Patrick Loftis, Shaun Longstreet, Laura Matthew, Jon Pray, Heidi Schweizer, Christopher Stockdale, Tom Wirtz.

Members excused: Scott D’Urso (chair), Barrett McCormick, Lars Olson.

Members absent: Lesley Boaz, Janice Welburn.

Reflection by Kathy Lang

Approval of Minutes

The minutes for the October 26, 2012 meeting were discussed. There was one correction, to change “SSCM” to “SCCM.” The minutes were unanimously approved as corrected.

Information Items

Kathy Lang announced that the faculty/staff internet pipe is being upgraded to alleviate pegging out between 10am and 2pm. This will affect both wireless and wired connections. A question was asked as to whether it would affect YouTube streaming. Answer: no, the limitations on that are probably on YouTube’s end.

Jon Pray announced the formation of a grass roots organization associated with Digital Marquette to promote technology issues in connection with the strategic planning process. The question at the President’s Forum on November 27 concerning technology came from that process. It was noted that the current Strategic Planning document contains high-level themes, and that there is language in the document about being innovative. The next step will be identifying some goals beneath those.
Continuing Business

Review of practices of the various colleges/units concerning support for students for academic technology for course requirements. Committee members were asked to canvass their colleges or units to determine what academic technology support is provided for students. Scott D’Urso reported that the College of Communications has a computing lab for students; Gary Meyer observed that the lab is working out well, but is an expensive resource for a single college to absorb. Margaret Cinto reported that the Graduate Student Organization sent out an email but received no responses, indicating that students either are satisfied or do not read their emails.

Steve Crane verified that the College of Business now has an Excel training course, combining online instruction plus live support, that is working fairly well. At the graduate level there is also a one credit-hour skills course taught by faculty. There are also basic orientation sessions for specialized incoming masters like MBAs and foreign students. Tom Wirtz reported that School of Dentistry students train mostly in the clinical area, but could use support in using presentation software. Mike Class reported that the College of Professional Studies began rolling out a “Leadership Across the Curriculum” program that integrates material from different courses into a leadership theme, using D2L. Patrick Loftis reported that the Physical Therapy department was five or six professional programs and undergraduates. There are no specific labs for undergraduates. There is some specific software for speech recognition. While there are some interdisciplinary Sim labs, there is demand for more.

Jon Pray observed that there are going to be computer labs dotted across disciplines. Kathy Lang said that there are 1,000 machines across campus; Psychology has a lab, the law school has a couple of pockets. Steve Crane noted the difference between labs and training. Gary Meyer observed that some concern is arising because there will be an increasing need to support students in Arts & Sciences in particular because of the increasing need to use technology to create coursework. However, there did not appear to be a consistent set of needs across disciplines.

Gary Meyer proposed that the next step may be to ask Scott D’Urso to assemble a spreadsheet, and then look for needs and efficiencies and identifying resources that could be shared. There was discussion of whether a new subcommittee was needed,
but it was agreed the Hardware/Software subcommittee could take on the task of brainstorming to come up with ideas. By acclamation so ordered.

**Short Discussion of Budgets.** There was a discussion of whether we can determine how much is spent on “academic technology” at Marquette. Kathy Lang observed that it will depend on what counts as “academic technology.” For example, the university servers should not, as they are just general computing resources. Gary Meyer will try to get Jay Kutke on agenda for meeting in January. Kathy Lang stated that another idea is to use the list of categories and definitions put out by Educause. The advantage of that would be that we could then benchmark our spending against other universities. Kathy agreed to distribute something for the January meeting.

**Presentation on Online Education at Marquette.** Heidi Schweizer made a presentation on online education at Marquette, particularly distance learning. There have been 98 courses developed with faculty since 2008, 55% graduate and 45% undergraduate. 50% are in the Arts & Sciences. Every college has been represented. The vast majority are offered in the summer. Online enrollments have increased each summer from 88 in 2008 to 878 in 2012.

The Marquette brand is important, as is keeping the classes to a normal class size. There are no more than 20 students in them, and they use the discussion forum in D2L a lot, so there is a high level of interactivity between peers and students. CTL offers a 3-week online course for faculty and graduate students on how to run an online course. Online courses are refreshed once every 4 years. Typically a course is designed by a faculty member working closely with a course designer. That helps to maintain the quality.

**Next steps:** We will need to continue to maintain quality as the program grows. We will need to adapt MOCES for online courses.

**New Business**

There is no meeting in December; the next meeting is in January. No additional items for the agenda were proposed.

The meeting was adjourned.