Marquette University Committee on Academic Technology

March 22, 2013 – Approved Minutes

Attendance:

Present: Lesley Boaz, Mike Class, S.J., Scott D'Urso, Kathy Lang, Thomas Lenoir, Patrick Loftis, Gary Meyer, Jon Pray, Heidi Schweizer, Chris Stockdale, Tom Wirtz, Margaret Cinto

Absent: Bruce Boyden (Excused), Steven Crane (Excused), Shaun Longstreet (Excused), Janice Welburn (Excused), Laura Matthew, Barrett McCormick, Lars Olson

A reflection prayer was given by Fr. Class to begin the meeting at 1:30pm.

The February 22nd, 2013 minutes were unanimously approved.

Kathy Lang gave an update on Smart Classrooms planned to be built or updated this summer. They include Cudahy 108, Straz Hall (4 rooms), old gym, and Schroeder Complex. A follow up discussion regarding locations of computer lab availability was led by Fr. Class given conversion of some current labs into classrooms. Raynor library was given as an option.

Kathy Lang also discussed the future of Smart Classroom upgrades including furnishings, paint, etc. rather than just electronics. Suggestion was made to include Kathy Kugi from the architecture office in a future CAT meeting to discuss these changes along with past focus group findings.

Kathy Lang shared with the group that the CRP program budget this year was raised to $1 million, which is larger than in recent years.

Gary Meyer shared information from his discussion with budget manager Mark Simonson. He is working on gathering data on IT utilization by department.

Jon Pray gave an update on the e-textbook subcommittee. They met with Bruce Moss, CIO from UW regarding pilot programs for e-textbooks (they are or have been involved in 4 to date). The cost of these programs was discussed and felt to be quite high. Feedback suggested faculty and student experience improved somewhat but no data on whether they “learn better” because of e-textbooks. The large discount afforded UW on these was discussed as well as how it may not be possible for a smaller school like MU to get such discounts. Overall, it was feared that the students wouldn’t likely save any money as a result of textbooks. Fr. Class brought up the possibility of self-publishing to save “middle-man” costs. The e-publications program through the MU library was mentioned as a place this could occur.

Gary Meyer then started a discussion about the possibility of conducting a campus conversation around online education as a way to give and receive ideas on the utilization of it. He mentioned Heidi Schweizer’s presentation on e-learning as inspiration. Gary expressed concern about his findings that most people around the campus don’t know what the University does in terms of e-learning and that this would be a way to introduce them to it. Topics to be included were 1) discuss current uses of e-technology on campus and discuss resources available 2) discuss MOOCs 3) give people an opportunity to be heard. The feeling is that it would be co-sponsored by CTL, IMC, and CAT committee. We
discussed the appropriate audience for these conversations; faculty? Students? Alumni? It was suggested to hold this the afternoon of the Pere Marquette Dinner (May 2nd) as most faculty would be around campus to attend that. Seeding these groups with students for their input was also suggested. Further discussion of this was added to the agenda for the next meeting.

Scott D’Urso led a discussion about online survey options. We currently use Opinio, but discussed Altrix as another option that potentially has more capabilities. Kathy Lang mentioned that IT would only be able to support one type.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:45pm