Committee on Academic Technology
October 16, 2015
Meeting Minutes

Attending: Gary Meyer, Kevin Rich, Michael Class, James Brust, Ericka Tucker, Mark Johnson, Heidi Schweizer, Lisa Hanson, Kathy Lang, Shaun Longstreet, Richard Marklin, Jon Pray, Maggie Cinto, Janice Wellburn, Dave Strifling (recorder)

Meeting commenced at 1:32 PM with a reflection by Shaun Longstreet.

Approval of Minutes
The Committee reviewed and approved the minutes of the September 25, 2015 meeting with no changes.

New Business
I. Discussion of agenda items for the year
A. Rich announced five potential ideas for Committee initiatives in the coming year: a campus wide technology survey, the use of publishers’ electronic supplemental materials and websites, assessment of technology use at selected peer institutions, budget cuts to electronic journals and databases, and incorporation of D2L “widgets.” The Committee examined each option.
B. The Committee first discussed a potential campus wide technology survey.
   1. It is not clear what, if anything, was done with the results of the previous campus wide technology survey. Lang indicated that no specific actions were taken. Class recalled that it took a long time to see the results, and the Committee never really had data in hand with which to pursue initiatives. Marklin stressed that the previous survey was too long; if we do another, we need to be sure that a survey would be very short, and that it would be a good use of faculty time.
   2. The Committee agreed that if another campus-wide survey is planned, it should be a highly-targeted, brief survey focused on specifics rather than general data.
   3. Meyer suggested that instead of a faculty survey, students may drive where we go from here. This is how substantial development occurred with D2L. The focus should be on students.
C. Assessment of technology at selected peer institutions.
   1. Strifling described this suggestion as "benchmarking" to determine what our peer or aspirational peer institutions are doing.
   2. Lang indicated that she already has data on technology use at many secondary institutions; however, there is very little depth to the data. Her counterparts at other institutions would likely be willing to share more information. The problem is that many faculty aren’t aware of the tools we have available, and don’t ask. Most feedback comes from people who are already using the technology; need to reach the broader audience.
   3. The results of this type of investigation might inform a future technology survey.
D. Committee members generally agreed with Hanson's suggestion that it would be best to determine a goal prior to choosing which initiatives to pursue. In this regard, the Committee expressed a preference to share data and information as opposed to gathering data; this eliminated a campus-wide survey and a peer school assessment from consideration as current initiatives (although they may be considered in a future year).

E. **Action item**: The Committee expressed general support for a "champion" model in which a few representatives would reach out to faculty in their departments, explaining available technology tools and collecting usage information that could potentially be used to create a targeted survey next year. Johnson and Tucker agreed to spearhead this effort. A subcommittee was created to include Tucker, Johnson, Pray, Schweizer, and non-Committee member Maria Pares-Toral. The subcommittee will report at the next Committee meeting.

F. The Committee then discussed publisher materials and D2L widgets, which generally allow for automatic interface between publishers' online materials and D2L. Several members questioned whether this may create more problems than it is worth if too much of the course occurs within a publisher's "walled garden." The Committee discussed what makes a "Marquette course." ADA and FERPA issues may also lurk. The Committee on Teaching is also investigating this issue.

1. Longstreet noted that we don't want a mandate to come out of the Committee that faculty can't use online resources. The question isn't total prohibition on use of online resources; we may just need to "vet" proposed uses.

2. Meyer asked what it would take to integrate D2L and other resources with the "big 6" publishers. **Action item**: Lang agreed to investigate and report at the next meeting.

3. Committee members expressed concern that publishers' extensive development of online resources may be playing into the high cost of textbooks.

G. The Committee then discussed, and expressed concern over, budget cuts leading to the elimination of certain electronic journals and databases. Digital resources are within the Committee's jurisdiction. Wellburn reported that this problem has to do with the University's interpretation of an accounting rule (University Finance looks at this as an operating expense). As a result, we need to find a different funding model for journals. This is an increasingly difficult issue to manage.

1. **Action item**: Meyer agreed to register the Committee's concern over this issue at an upcoming meeting with the Provost. At Lang's request, Meyer will also share information related to the cost of (and inadequate budget for) computing resources with the Provost.

**Old Business**

I. Update on clicker pilot/Learning Catalytics/BYOD (Chris Stockdale)

A. In Stockdale's absence, this agenda item is tabled until the next meeting.

1. D'Urso indicated that there is no ability in the general pool request to indicate a need for a room that is suited to BYOD. Lang noted that we should be able to add that option to the request system.
2. However, Lang noted that the bigger issue is that Marquette doesn’t have enough wireless capacity. As we re-do classroom spaces, this is likely to be addressed.

II. Faculty Tech Day Subcommittee
   A. Pray announced that videos from the Tech Day are now available on the website. However, they are not being actively marketed to the University community.
   B. Further discussion of how best to market the videos will take place at a future meeting.

III. Meeting Adjourned at 2:58 PM

Respectfully submitted by David A. Strifling.