CAT Business Meeting - October 28, 2011

Attendees - Bruce Boyden, Lesley Boaz, Michael Class, Steven Crane, Scott D’Urso, Steven DeLonge, Danny Smith (for Kathy Lang), Patrick Loftis, Laura Matthew, Barrett McCormick, Gary Meyer, Michelle Mynlieff, Jon Pray, Heidi Schweizer, and Kate Kaiser (Guest)

Absent - George Corliss, Charles Beckwith, Janice Welburn, Tom W., Shaun Longstreet

Reflection by Jon Pray

Approval of Minutes of September 16, 2011 - Motion to approve Pray, Schweizer
Second - Unanimously approved.

- Item #1 - Discussion of Emerging Technology Trends report from Northwestern Mutual (provided by DeLonge)
  - Crane noted that issues surrounding cloud computing are complex - solution looking for a problem particularly in an academic setting.
  - Class noted some of the potential and impacts of cloud services like iCloud and amazon.com cloud services.
  - Crane talked about the business schools idea to go to virtual labs, possibly via cloud computing. Cost issues remain. Asked if there is a real pressing need that we need to move forward on this? Still discussing what the benefits might be for the university.
  - Issues of ownership of data and access to data on cloud service is an issue.
  - No current cost benefits - other benefits such as pedagogy would have to drive it.
  - Smith noted that IT is looking more towards browser apps for accessing the cloud because they are platform independent.
  - Crane asked how is crowd sourcing going to impact the university?
  - Barrett said he feels that there is a limited impact.
  - Kate Kaiser (Guest) distributed report to her business class. Her thoughts - normally talks about large corporations (not much education background). Look at anything new with caution.
  - DeLonge noted that students are here for a fixed time and that technology is changing rapidly. Recommendations to freshmen can be difficult.
• Higher ed is often ahead of the business concern. Need to know what teenagers are using to predict the future.

• IT has a difficult challenge with all of the technology brought into campus - higher turn over in tech than a corporation.

• Barrett noted that when talking about young people related to older adults - each group has different relationships with computers. Students may use more tech, but they are not aware of the consequences of that use.

• Crane noted this as well. Students can be conservative. College of Business is going to teach a 1 credit course on Excel because students are not coming to school noting how it functions. Test out option with minimal skill set demonstrated.

• Mynlieff concurs with these issues. Boaz notes some of the ethical issues of technology issues/implication particularly with cloud computing / privacy issues, etc.

• Loftis notices that they is a greater diversity of skill sets, not everyone has the same knowledge skill sets

• Barrett's takeaway is that we have to be wary of what recommendations we make related to learning. There is a second order level on learning about technology that students need to understand to be functional. 3rd set of issues - differences in how we critical thinking / analytical skills different topics (literature, web sites, etc.) Medium does matter and we / students need to have some core skill sets.

• Class noted that different media require different ways of thinking.

• Item #2 - Subcommittee Reports
  • E-textbook - Jon Pray - committee met looked at various models being offered by publishers - wide range of options (pdf to live multimedia texts). Business models is looking more at leasing content vs purchasing. Ownership would be option. Electronic course packs another model (customized e-textbooks).
    • Driving impulse is saving students money, but not sure if that is going to happen. Some cost savings, but not significant. We have a contract with the bookstore until 2014 that makes them the exclusive provider of texts / e-texts.
    • He said that they are looking to bring in some vendors for more detailed information. Like cloud committee we are not being curve, but in same position as many schools. Could be an opportunity for some pilot programs to get more detail.
    • Crane noted that some faculty are already "testing" some of these models of e-texts.
• Students are not in favor of some of the e-text options, particularly those that do not have mobile devices /e-readers. D'Urso noted that this issue is the “Clickers” issue on steroids.

• Model by Indiana Univ - flat fee and student have access to books - MSOE looking at that model as well.

• Hardware/Software Requirements - Scott D'Urso - Committee met and discussed some of the key issues/challenges facing the committee. One of the key issues is the state of the current infrastructure in certain buildings on campus. Some buildings are significantly hindered in terms of technology expansion (Johnston Hall - prime example).

• Committee determined a set of factors to guide future discussions: (1) Pedagogy, (2) Technology (end-user), and (3) Infrastructure (back-end technology).

• Committee planned two projects
  • Contact Deans to solicit examples of faculty using technology in the learning process, both inside and outside the classroom.
    • Meyer noted that this has been done recently and that we should contact Dale Kaser in the Office of the Provost.
  • Conduct focus groups of students in the various colleges and schools to get a better understanding of how they use technology for learning, both inside and outside the classroom.
  • The committee also hopes to review relevant data from the spring technology survey.

• Matthew asked about where D2L fits in these discussion. Is it part of the HW/SW subcommittee?
  • Smith noted that IT is looking at issue of when to upgrade D2L:
    • Committee agreed that next fall - prior to fall semester would be the best time.
  • D'Urso noted that he would add D2L issue to his subcommittee and would ask students how they use, like dislike, what they would like to see during the upcoming focus groups in the spring.

• Cloud Computing - Kathy Lang - Smith, in Lang’s absence, reported on some of these issues in the earlier general discussion.

Meeting Adjourned.