Committee on Academic Technology
Minutes
April 28, 2017

Members Present: Corie Cochran (new member representing MUSG), Gary Krenz, Tom Wirtz, Mark Johnson, David Wilcox (new member representing College of Communications), Kevin Rich, Kathy Lang, Shaun Longstreet, John Su, Janice Welburn, David Strifling

The meeting began at 1:35PM. The minutes from the meetings of February 24, 2017 and March 24, 2014 were reviewed and approved with minor modifications.

The meeting began with the introduction of two new members to the Committee, whose appointments both carry into next year: representing the College of Communication (and replacing Herbert Lowe) is David Wilcox, and representing MUSG (and replacing Adam Kouhel) is Corie Cochran.

Two items of information were shared by Kathy Lang:

1. The Scantron system needs updating. Some concerns made their way to Lang regarding whether the statistics generated by the current system were sufficient. Other OU’s who have Scantron (Dentistry and Business) haven’t reported this problem. In any case the Scantrons provide copious raw data, which could be processed in a spreadsheet to gather statistics.
2. CRP will go ahead next year, funded. At present the general ratio of desktops to laptops is ~73% for desktops and ~27% for laptops. A conversation followed about FIRPA and data security on University machines and on faculty and staff’s personal machines. Lang and Longstreet referred those interested to the UPP web pages.

Janice Welburn shared that next year’s Digital Scholarship Symposium will be held on September 28, 2017. More specific information to follow later.

The main portion of the meeting was dedicated to determining action items for the next academic year, AY 2017–18. Four items in particular emerged:

1. Direct Grade transfer from D2L to CheckMarq: The Committee continues to have interest in some middleware that would allow for transferring grades calculated in D2L to CheckMarq, thus saving time and increasing accuracy. Lang noted that, upon the approval of funds, a Project Committee would be struck, including perhaps one or two members from CAT, to aid in the project. The University’s contract with D2L runs until 2020. Because different Learning Management Systems (LMS’s) export data differently, one key point in the decision will be whether the time and expense can be justified if there is a strong chance of MU’s moving away from D2L to another LMS.
2. **ADA Compliance**: The University’s Accessible Electronic Technology Initiative entails that newly created digital content being used this fall must be ADA compliant, which will significantly impact faculty preparing for fall classes. By 2020 the expectation that all digital media employed at the University will be ADA compliant. **Longstreet** shared with the Committee the plans that the Center for Teaching and Learning (CTL) has to aid faculty and staff in this regarding. More information will be shared with the community throughout the summer. The Committee understands that the Accessible Electronic Technology Initiative is a major development for us at Marquette, so successful communication is a top priority.

3. **Increased use of D2L**: The Committee also spoke about how we might create greater faculty interest in the use of D2L; while faculty are required at the very least to place their syllabi on the respective D2L site, such use is minimal in comparison to the D2L’s capabilities. MUSG in the past learned from student feedback that students would like to see faculty universally use D2L for grade calculation purposes, as D2L makes it possible for students to receive immediate information about their grades. Towards that end it might be possible to create and share grading schemas that faculty could import into a given D2L course, thus meeting the students’ wishes, and allowing for use and re-use of a key resource in D2L.

4. **Accessibility to projectors via portable devices**: While many ‘smart’ classrooms allow for use of their projectors via a desktop machine that is hard-wired to it, faculty are increasingly hoping to use mobile devices (including laptops) to address projectors directly, via WiFi (and knowledge of the projector’s IP address). How many projectors can do this? **Lang** indicated that an inventory of projectors and other classroom technology is to be conducted this summer, so information should be available come the fall on this score.

The meeting adjourned at 2:47PM.

Respectfully submitted by Mark Johnson.