Committee on Academic Technology  
November 18, 2016  
Meeting Minutes

Present: Mark Johnson, Gary Krenz, Patrick Loftis, Kevin Rich, Richard Taylor, Herbert Lowe, Tom Wirtz, Kathy Lang, Carolyne Hurlburt, Dave Strifling (recorder)

Meeting commenced at 1:37 PM with a reflection by Taylor.

Approval of Minutes:
The Committee reviewed the minutes of the September 23, 2016 meeting, proposed several amendments, and approved the minutes as amended. Johnson agreed to circulate the revised minutes.

Discussion of Agenda Items
I. Johnson noted that the circulated agenda largely resulted from a recent meeting with Lang and Longstreet. The Committee discussed the following items:

A. ePortfolios. Lang (speaking on behalf of Longstreet) explained that an “ePortfolio” is a functionality that allows users to save a collection of created items. Johnson circulated an e-mail from Longstreet containing further information on this item. We have a D2L module (about 2000 licenses) that is primarily used by the College of Education. This is set up for while students are here on campus, though other ePortfolio vendors may go beyond that. Lowe explained the College of Communication’s desire for a portfolio that allows students (and potentially others) to “prepare, preserve, present, and share” digital assets that are generally meant to be shared publicly. The problem is that the current site is “owned” by the College, and students cannot take their portfolios with them. The College wants outsiders to see what’s being done – parents, alumni, and others. D2L doesn’t work for all these purposes.

i. Action Item – Lang indicated that there are many ePortfolio options. Longstreet will pull together a group to look at potential tools. Even before that, the group will seek to identify the services people want. Lowe indicated his willingness to be part of the group. Wirtz indicated that someone from the Dental School will also participate (Dental mocked up a Sharepoint site, but the functionality isn’t great).

B. “Canned” courses. This is a continuation of last year’s Committee discussion related to publisher add-ins for D2L – for example, to transfer grades from publisher homework modules directly into the D2L gradebook. Lang indicated that this interface takes time and money to set up and (in IT's experience) typically doesn’t work anyway. Another concern is that some will use the modules as the (“canned”) course instead of independently teaching.

Action Item – Consider referring this item to D2L steering committee.
Action Item – Rich re-circulated the survey he created last year to measure faculty interest in this topic. Committee members will review and potentially circulate to departmental colleagues. Results should be funneled through Johnson.

C. Grading interface between D2L and CheckMarq. The Committee has received a general inquiry from the University Academic Senate on this topic. Lang stated that the intent is to migrate to the cloud-based D2L first, and then work on the CheckMarq interface in the spring.

Action Item – The University Academic Senate has also invited Johnson to its meeting on Monday, November 21, to discuss related items. (A preliminary list was attached to the University Academic Senate agenda recently circulated to faculty). Johnson will report back to the Committee regarding any charges the Committee is to receive from the Senate.

D. Support for infrastructure upgrades (Lang). Lang updated the Committee on the dire state of some campus infrastructure (wireless and related issues). The issue is money. For FY18, IT asked for on the order of $1.7 million in funding; it’s uncertain how much will actually be allocated in the final budget.

E. Classroom technology/faculty capacity. The Center for Teaching and Learning is offering regular training workshops; lots of training is available for faculty. Various platforms are used in different units of the University. Johnson circulated an e-mail from Longstreet with further information about this topic. Further, some accessibility issues have arisen:
   i. To a point, this is true even when using D2L (for example, an uploaded PDF file is not be accessible).
   ii. Video must have closed captioning functionality.
   iii. Laws are changing and the University must be alert to potential liability issues.
   iv. Strifling indicated that this analysis must go far beyond D2L, because some units of the University don’t use it; for example, the Law School faculty generally uses a different platform.

F. Lang noted impending move over to Office 365 cloud-based e-mail (we have 30,000 active e-mail accounts). Scheduled for January 9, 2017 (on the Friday before an e-mail needs to go out to everyone in the University).

I. Meeting Adjourned at 3:10 PM

Respectfully submitted by David Strifling.