Annual Report to University Academic Senate
Committee on Academic Technology
Mark Johnson, Chair

Executive Summary:
The Committee on Academic Technology met six times during AY 2016-2017 (inclusive of pending April 28, 2017 meeting). No subcommittees currently exist.

Work and Accomplishments:
- Explanation of ITS needs and initiatives for AY 2016-17
- Visual Reality demonstration by CTL
- Meeting devoted to upcoming ADA compliance initiative
- Vision Statement

Senate Charges:
None

Unfinished Business and Recommendations for Continued Work:
- Grading Interface between D2L and CheckMarq
- ADA Compliance (Accessible Electronic Technology Initiative)
- Faculty Technology Day
Committee Membership:

Mark Johnson (chair)  Klingler College of Arts & Sciences / Humanities  
Richard Taylor  Klingler College of Arts and Sciences / Natural Sciences  
(replacement AY2016-2017 for Canavan)  
Gary Krenz  Klingler College of Arts & Sciences / Computational Sciences  
Kevin Rich  College of Business Administration  
Dave Wilcox  Diederich College of Communication (replacement: April 2017 for Herbert Lowe)  
Tom Wirtz  School of Dentistry  
Richard Marklin  Opus College of Engineering  
Patrick Loftis  College of Health Sciences  
David Strifling  Law School  
Amber Young-Brice  College of Nursing  
Adam Kouhel  Marquette University Student Government (replacement pending: 4/2017)  
Carolyne Hurlburt  Graduate Student Organization  
Shaun Longstreet  Center for Teaching and Learning (non-voting)  
Janice Welburn  Raynor Libraries (non-voting)  
Kathy Lang  Information Technology Services (non-voting)  
John Su (co-chair)  Vice Provost for Academic Affairs (non-voting)

Committee Meetings:
Six meetings were conducted between September 23, 2016 and April 28, 2017.

Senate Charges:
None

Committee Work and Accomplishments:

- **Explanation of ITS needs and initiatives for AY 2016-17** — This academic year was a busy one for ITS, with deep impact upon academic technology initiatives. The committee learned from Kathy Lang of ITS’s many needs for infrastructure maintenance and improvement. The committee fears that ITS is underfunded, and will find challenges in meeting its charge. The subscription of Office365 provides Marquette with common software technology for its needs, and with the transition to the cloud (both D2L and our e-mail systems) completed over the Christmas break, we may now look ahead to future creative use of our resources, with these key pieces solidly in place (see Continued Work, below).

- **Visual Reality demonstration by CTL** – At its February 24, 2017 meeting the Committee was given a demonstration of virtual reality (VR) and augmented reality by Shaun Longstreet
(and intern Carly Kroll) from CTL. Using Google’s cardboard product with standard smartphones the Committee could see ways in which such technology might be employed in the classroom, not so much as a primary means of communication of information, but rather as a means of ‘immersive digital experience.’ The committee agreed on the potential value of such technology, and promised to share the news that CTL is offering a $3000 summer curriculum grant for developing courses that use immersive digital learning.

- **Meeting devoted to upcoming ADA compliance initiative** – At its March 24, 2017 meeting the Committee was visited by Anne Deahl, representing Marquette’s Accessible Electronic Technology Initiative; she explained the effort to make MU courses ADA compliant. As the University continues to employ digital technology in its teaching and communication with students, it needs to make sure that those with disabilities are not disenfranchised by failure to attend to their needs in the digital realm. Deahl explained that best practices for web page design, creating machine readable PDF files, as well as captioning of audio, will be key parts of this effort. CTL will be providing documentation and training to faculty. The Committee understood the Accessible Electronic Technology Initiative to be of highest importance.

- **Vision Statement** – The committee is scheduled to hold a brainstorming session at the April 28, 2017 meeting, to refine the mission/vision of the committee. In addition to canvassing members for items of concern for the coming year, the Committee will discuss at length the Accessible Electronic Technology Initiative, especially against the backdrop of the changes to the Core Curriculum, and how those changes might affect our teaching and use of technology.

**Unfinished Business and Recommendations for Continued Work:**

Three items will continue into next year.

- **Grading Interface between D2L and CheckMarq** – The project is ongoing, and the committee will be involved with both the Office of the Registrar and IT Services. It is hoped that we might develop a pilot program during the next academic year.

- **ADA Compliance (Accessible Electronic Technology Initiative)** — The ramifications of Marquette’s commitment to all students will require information dissemination about ADA compliance, and faculty’s obligations in this regard. The Committee will play a role in spreading information and encouraging participation in faculty and staff training.

- **Faculty Technology Day** —A subcommittee will be struck to decide on the future of the Faculty Technology Day, and will handle any required planning.