

SUMMARY FOR TEACHING AND LEARNING PORTFOLIO

DATE: March 7, 2017

TIME: 2:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.

LOCATION: Marriott Library, MLIB 5201

IN ATTENDANCE:

Kirsten Butcher Soehner)	Martha Bradley Fernando Rubio	Nancy Lombardo Wayne Samuelson	Harish Maringanti (for Catherine Cory Stokes
Jon Thomas	Patrick Tripeny		

COMMITTEE SUPPORT: Paul Burrows, Emily Rushton

UNABLE TO ATTEND:

Rick Ash	Patrick Panos	Linda Ralston	Catherine Soehner
Ryan Steele	Jack Bender (ASUU)		

AGENDA ITEMS DISCUSSED:

- Review of task force meetings
- Discuss Software Anywhere in light of task force requests
- Open floor

Review of task force meetings

Paul Burrows gave an update on the Learning Spaces/student computing fees process thus far. The task force held interviews Feb 13-22 for 23 applicant proposals. Burrows said the task force’s overall impression was that the requests seemed more focused and related to student benefit than in previous years, as well as being more in line with the funding priorities. The requested amounts have also decreased (in comparison to 2015 and 2016). The task force is still waiting to find out the total amount of funding that will be available for awards.

During the interviews, the task force asked the applicants a variety of questions about their specific projects and line items. They also asked each group what their current method was for reporting lab usage, as well as what their reliance was on student computing fees for IT spend (excluding personnel costs). Some groups were 100% reliant; others stated relatively small percentages. Seven major proposals asked for virtual desktop infrastructure (VDI) funding this year, which led to the next discussion topic.

Discuss Software Anywhere in light of task force requests

Jon Thomas reviewed the current need for VDI solution(s) on campus, and the advantages to using VDI (software can be tracked, there are no licensing concerns, apps can be virtualized, students don’t need to be physically in a lab to use the software, etc.). Thomas explained an idea that had been proposed to

take the funds dedicated for the VDI requests this year and put them into a holding account, while a decision is made about a centralized strategic initiative on VDI. Then, once that decision is made, the funds in the holding account could be put towards funding that centralized solution.

Kirsten Butcher commented that as more colleges move away from having fixed desktop/specialized software labs, the need for a VDI solution will become more prevalent.

Cory Stokes then talked about his thoughts on the proposed idea. He said right now, there is a working group formed out of ANTC whose purpose is to determine, architecturally, how we would deploy the infrastructure at the U to support software anywhere at scale. That working group's charge is to come back with an architecture recommendation – not necessarily a product or solution. The next logical step would be RFP. Stokes explained this can be a very long process, and he's concerned it could impact the colleges' current students if the committee were to hold on to VDI funds until a centralized solution was available. Paul Burrows reminded the committee that a few colleges are planning to collaborate on VDI solutions (theoretically reducing the number of VDI solutions on campus).

Butcher added that some colleges would say that they've determined it's in their students' best interests to have access to software via VDI now, and not wait until a centralized/enterprise solution is available.

Stokes reiterated that it may not be worth it to hang on to the funds when we know it will likely be a 2+ year project to get a centralized solution on campus. Harish Maringanti commented that colleges need time to plan, and need advanced warning that a VDI solution is coming. He said it might make more sense this year to encourage colleges to collaborate on their VDI purchases whenever possible, while simultaneously working towards getting a centralized solution on campus. Butcher also mentioned encouraging colleges who have similar needs to work together on potentially getting the same VDI solution. Stokes agreed and said he'd like to use this year to engage with the colleges that have asked for VDI funding.

There was general agreement from the group to encourage the seven colleges/groups asking for VDI funding to work together and collaborate on VDI solutions as much as possible, meaning theoretically only 3-4 solutions would be purchased instead of 6-7. The group agreed to not make this conditional of being funded, but that they would simply encourage the groups to work together if at all possible.