

SUMMARY FOR TEACHING AND LEARNING PORTFOLIO

DATE: January 29, 2018

TIME: 12:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.

LOCATION: Marriott Library, MLIB 5201

IN ATTENDANCE:

Martha Bradley	Nancy Lombardo	Harish Maringanti	Eric Poitras
Fernando Rubio	Wayne Samuelson	Cory Stokes	Jon Thomas

COMMITTEE SUPPORT: Paul Burrows, Emily Rushton

UNABLE TO ATTEND:

Rick Ash	Zach Berger	Kirsten Butcher	Randy Dryer
Patrick Panos	Ryan Steele	Patrick Tripeny	

AGENDA ITEMS DISCUSSED:

- Review of Learning Spaces timeline
- Labstats first look
- Software Anywhere
- YellowDig resolution
- Classroom AV standards and SACIT
- Canvas data governance
- Open floor

Review of Learning Spaces timeline

Paul Burrows, TLT information architect, gave a brief update on the Learning Spaces/student computing fees process for 2018, including completed items and upcoming ones. At the time of this meeting, applicant/task force interviews were ongoing. Burrows also showed the amount of funds requested in comparison to the total amount available to be awarded.

Labstats first look

Jon Thomas, TLT director, reminded the group that the Strategic Information Technology Committee had previously approved the creation of a working group to begin collecting lab statistics across campus. Funds were provided for organizations to install lab statistical software in their labs. He clarified that SITC's decision included a requirement that, for the 2018-19 fiscal year, this data couldn't be used to influence Learning Spaces funding decisions.

The labs were asked to collect data from November 1 to December 15, 2017 (due to some labs experiencing difficulty with setting up the statistical software at the beginning of the semester). 29 organizations were invited to participate, and 18 submitted data. Thomas then reviewed some of the data reported, such as top software packages used within each lab, number of "heavy use" days,

number of computers in each lab, and so on. Thomas also clarified that some of the data reported was questionable, because a number of lab managers expressed concerns that the software, LabStats, wasn't accurately gathering data for their labs. Thomas said while this makes it difficult to draw any conclusions from the data this year, it still shows a potential in collecting the data for future semesters. The portfolio spent some time discussing why the LabStats software failed to accurately record data in some labs but not others, and what can be done to improve future statistics-gathering. Ultimately, the group voted to approve submitting a request to ANTC to create a working group whose mission will be to create a student computer lab usage data dictionary. Thomas will present this proposal at the February ANTC meeting.

Software Anywhere

Cory Stokes, UOnline Director and Associate Dean for Undergraduate Studies, gave an update on this topic, which was discussed at the last SITC meeting. He explained that SITC did not feel enough due diligence had been done yet to justify expanding the Software2 pilot with the Marriott Library. Instead, SITC appointed Deputy CIO Ken Pink as the new lead of the original software anywhere working group (the previous lead is no longer with the University), and that group has been charged with coming back to SITC by March with a recommendation.

Thomas then took over briefly to remind the portfolio that based on the student computing fees/learning spaces funding requests from this year, it doesn't appear that any colleges are increasing their usage of VDI/software virtualization.

YellowDig resolution

As a reminder, U faculty usage of Yellowdig (a social learning tool and plug-in for Canvas) has increased during the last few years – but unfortunately, while it used to be a free tool, Yellowdig is going to start charging in the near future. Thomas presented this topic at the last SITC meeting, as well as the portfolio's recommended new rules for installing Canvas add-on tools at the institutional level, and SITC approved the recommendations. SITC did not provide guidance on individual faculty members installing an add-on tool for a single course – only that faculty should be notified of the risk they're taking on. At this point in time, TLT does not allow faculty to install these tools without contacting TLT first.

Bringing the conversation back to the YellowDig tool specifically, Thomas asked the portfolio for advice on 1) the best way to handle the tool beginning to charge in Spring 2018, and all the faculty members who have been used to it being free thus far; and 2) the broader issue of whether or not the University needs a more powerful discussion board tool, similar to YellowDig.

After some discussion, the portfolio agreed that first, TLT should train its support staff on adding Canvas add-on tools (when faculty request them) and ensure they're following the procedure of informing faculty about FERPA and risk involved with these add-on tools. The portfolio also agreed that the broader discussion board tool question should be taken to the Senate Advisory Committee on IT (SACIT).

Classroom AV standards and SACIT

An effort is underway to implement classroom standards that are approved by Facilities Management, but Thomas explained that it's been difficult thus far to make any progress. After bringing this topic to SACIT, that group suggested the new classroom standards be created as official University policy. Thomas asked for the portfolio's guidance on this. One member suggested first confirming that another policy does not already exist that could accept a new rule for classroom standards (instead of writing a new policy entirely). The portfolio agreed this was a good first step, and also agreed it should be taken back to SACIT for further discussion and direction.

Canvas data governance

Fernando Rubio, associate professor for Language and Literature, gave a brief overview of a study he worked on last year, in which he collected Canvas data for a single course to show evidence of online behaviors, page views, participations, postings, on-time submissions, and active days. Rubio categorized the evidence into three groups: active participation, passive participation, and continuity. He used these categories to look at whether there were significant differences between successful and unsuccessful students, and found that all three behaviors correlate strongly with final grades, with continuity being the best predictor of success.

Rubio used this as an example of the broader nature of collecting Canvas data and how having access to this data can improve teaching and learning at the University overall, but emphasized there must be a regulation structure governing this process. The portfolio spent some time discussing both Rubio's study as well as the overall topic of governing Canvas data. The portfolio recognized that faculty would want to have access to this data for research purposes, and determined that first clarification should be made on who is the data steward of Canvas data. Secondly, the data steward should work to make sure the policies and procedures surrounding Canvas data conform as closely as possible to the way the U manages PeopleSoft data. Stokes agreed to initiate a conversation about this with CIO Steve Hess, while Martha Bradley, Senior Associate Vice President for Undergraduate Studies, agreed to take the matter to Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs and President-Elect, Ruth Watkins.

Open floor

There were no open floor topics.