SUMMARY FOR TEACHING AND LEARNING PORTFOLIO
DATE: June 20, 2018
TIME: 2:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.
LOCATION: Marriott Library, MLIB 5201

IN ATTENDANCE:

Martha Bradley	Nancy Lombardo	Ryan Steele	Cory Stokes
Jon Thomas	Patrick Tripeny		

COMMITTEE SUPPORT: Paul Burrows, Jesse Drake, Emily Rushton

UNABLE TO ATTEND:

Randy Dryer	Peter Jensen	Harish Maringanti	Patrick Panos
Eric Poitras	Fernando Rubio	Wayne Samuelson	

AGENDA ITEMS DISCUSSED:
- Learning Spaces funding cycle
- Update on Pathbrite rollout
- New approach to IVC classrooms on campus
- Top Hat use case
- Turnitin RFP issues
- Open floor

Learning Spaces funding cycle

Paul Burrows, TLT information architect, gave an update on the Learning Spaces funding cycle and final award recommendations.

Every year, the portfolio undertakes the process for awarding Learning Spaces - Student Computing Fees (LS-SCF) funds, which are derived from special student computing fees assessed to each tuition-paying student at the university. For the 2017-18 award cycle, the Portfolio received funding requests from 27 organizations comprising colleges, libraries and centers. Of the $3.24 million in requests, $2.86 million was awarded to support 154 projects, with 90 percent of funded projects receiving full support.

Proposals for the 2018-19 academic year were submitted in January 2018. An ad hoc task force with expertise in the use of IT and AV technologies for teaching and learning was convened to interview applicants. The Portfolio began deliberations, using established funding priorities. After the U's annual budgeting processes vetted award recommendations in March, funds were slated for transfer to awardees when the new academic year begins.

New for the next LS-SCF funding cycle, if requests are being made to support a computer lab (on-site or virtual), lab usage data must be submitted. The Portfolio voted to again make task force interviews mandatory. The Portfolio also voted to alter the composition of task force membership by focusing on more role-based expertise. Burrows recommended the inclusion of the following roles: college IT manager; student computer lab manager; technician with AV installation experience in learning spaces; UIT staff member with working knowledge of servers, switches, network and infrastructure; expert in software

purchases and renewals; person with a student benefit perspective, and more faculty representation.

Update on Pathbrite rollout

Nathan Sanders, TLT course development instructional designer and manager, gave an overview of a pilot program for Pathbrite, noting forthcoming changes to its interface design and workflow.

Pathbrite and Adobe Portfolio are the e-portfolio products supported by the university. While Pathbrite integrates with Canvas (Adobe Portfolio does not), Sanders noted some duplicate Pathbrite functionality that is already served by Canvas. Sanders's team has requested that Pathbrite sever the grading functionality from Canvas. They are also working with the vendor to streamline the platform for students and instructors, specifically, more simplified navigation. Instructors will notice that the e-portfolio link inside each class will present a Pathbrite link leading to two options – setting up a guided template or a more free-form experience that uses the native functionality of the software. Student workflow will be similar, with options to create, import or modify existing templates.

A slate of new features will go live to a broader pilot group in fall 2018, with full campus-wide release on track for spring 2019.

New approach to IVC classrooms on campus

Adam Stewart, TLT associate director of operations, gave an update on Interactive Video Conferencing (IVC) use at the U.

Nearly all IVC rooms on campus are department owned. Once equipment is installed, it connects to the network through the Utah Education Network's central management system, which allows prescheduling of connections between machines and configuration of codec software, which enables encoding/decoding of video and/or audio data from files, streams, or broadcasts.

The university's Graduate Center at St. George has been scheduling IVC on campus since 2009, but is planning to end support for IVC connections outside of St. George. Stewart said that about 65 percent of its IVC connections are St. George-based and will continue to be supported. This change being called for due to increased demand for services that fall outside of the scope of original funding.

To address main campus-only IVC connections, TLT is in the process of moving IVC support to a self-service model without the need to preschedule, focusing on alternate platforms like Skype for Business and Zoom. Skype is already part of the U's broad communications platform, and TLT is working with the David Eccles School of Business to acquire a small group of Zoom licenses to check in/out to users as needed. Cory Stokes, UOnline Director and Associate Dean for Undergraduate Studies, noted that the university also provides Cranium Cafe, which he said is useful for machine-to-machine virtual teleconferencing, where Zoom is more appropriate for room-to-room connections, and Skype is suited for staff-based conferencing. If prescheduling is needed for existing legacy IVC classrooms, department IT staff will have to request access and train on Utah Education and Telehealth Network's IVC management system.

The committee discussed seeking further input from faculty, and Stewart will begin communicating about the change through various channels, seeking input from other IT governance groups.

Top Hat use case

Jay Jordan, chair of the Department of Writing and Rhetoric Studies, shared a preliminary use case with Top Hat software, which the committee is looking at for possible licensing for campus use.

Jordan was interested in Top Hat as a tool for facilitating classroom interaction in his writing courses. He noted that some students are reticent to ask questions or speak in front of class, something he's observed to be a particular challenge for international students.

Despite the university's existing relationship with TurningPoint interactive polling software, or "clickers," Jordan argued that TopHat is a more robust classroom participation interface. In addition to providing responses anonymously on the multiple-choice scale, he said that students can respond with short or long answers, and even drawings. Jordan lauded the instructional design thinking that went into the product, being particularly impressed with TopHat Textbook, which is customizable to courses and allows faculty to drop in multimedia content.

The committee agreed to continue assessing Top Hat use cases in the classroom to determine enterprise funding potential, report back on current use levels across campus, and set up contractual language with the vendor in the interim.

Turnitin RFP issues

Jon Thomas, TLT director, said it was discovered that a vital component of the RFP for the Turnitin plagiarism-detection service was missing. A new RFP has been opened up, and Thomas fully expects the product to be available this fall semester – either by extending the current contract or awarding a new contract.