

SUMMARY FOR TEACHING AND LEARNING COMMITTEE MEETING

DATE: June 9, 2014

TIME: 9-10 a.m.

LOCATION: Marriott Library, Room 1140

IN ATTENDANCE:

Rick Ash	Martha Bradley	Kirsten Butcher	Steve Corbató
Patrick Panos	Wayne Samuelson	Jean Shipman	Cory Stokes

COMMITTEE SUPPORT: Rebekah Grow, Rene Eborn

UNABLE TO ATTEND:

Pam Hardin	Nalini Nadkarni (on leave)	Linda Ralston
Fernando Rubio	Catherine Soehner	Patrick Tripeny

AGENDA ITEMS DISCUSSED:

- Unizin teaching technology consortium

Unizin teaching technology consortium

Cory Stokes informed the portfolio members about Unizin, a group of several high-profile universities looking to collaborate on teaching technology and learning analytics. The University of Utah — and the Utah System of Higher Education — currently uses Canvas, Kaltura and Equella for managing teaching and learning digital resources. Stokes said there is major interest in higher education to use aggregate data about learning gathered from these kinds of systems to ferret out patterns that could greatly benefit individual instructors or students. The Unizin collaboration, working under the Internet2 umbrella, intends to do just that.

Stokes explained that while the University of Utah uses the major components of the system Unizin is proposing, it does not have access to a key item: A data warehouse of learning analytics. Building and maintaining a bare-bones in-house solution would cost the University more in the long run and cause it to miss out on some other economic advantages of joining Unizin, Stokes said.

Current contracts for Canvas, Kaltura and Equella run through 2017, at which point it is expected the University would be asked to pay a higher cost per user. The portfolio looked at budget projections for a variety of scenarios related to the teaching and learning technologies currently being used, as well as additional projected costs for a data warehouse, along with the expected costs associated with joining Unizin as a founding member.

Stokes said aside from economics, another positive factor of joining Unizin would be a nearly seamless migration for faculty, as Unizin will leverage Instructure's Canvas system at its core. It would also give

faculty greater opportunities to collaborate with counterparts at other high-level universities to develop courses or programs not possible at any one school on its own.

A question was asked about where University Information Technology leadership stood on the issue. Steve Corbató said UIT was looking to Academic Affairs, IT governance, the Council of Academic Deans, and others to determine whether it is the right path to pursue, but UIT does not have any cause for concern. The group also discussed what options would be available to the University should Unizin not deliver on the proposed system on time. The University could always continue to negotiate contracts along with the Utah System of Higher Education the way it does now.

There were also questions about the reality of obtaining meaningful, actionable learning analytics, a still-developing field. Members decided that based on the budget projections, the savings to the University in potential licensing fees alone makes the Unizin proposal strong enough to pursue, and if the learning analytics portion delivers on its potential that would make the investment all the more vital.

A motion was made to ask the Operational Information Technology Committee to recommend that the University of Utah investigate investing in Unizin as a founding member. An amendment was added suggesting the Marriott Library be actively included in future discussions about Unizin’s Content Services. All members were in favor.

Action summary			
Action	Topic	Person/Group	Next step
Approved	Unizin teaching technology consortium	Portfolio	The portfolio voted to recommend OITC consider having the University of Utah join Unizin as a founding member.