

Academic Computing Advisory Committee (ACAC)

Highlights of Recent Activities and Discussions

The Academic Computing Advisory Committee (ACAC) approves policies concerning academic computing, and engages in strategic planning, systems evaluation, and needs identification for academic computing, including the hardware, software, services, central and school-level IT infrastructure and networks that support the academic units of the University. ACAC has responsibility for keeping the faculty and university administration informed about IT activities, opportunities, challenges and problems. ACAC provides formal and informal reports as appropriate to the Provost, the Senior Vice President for Business and Finance, the Chief Information Officer, the Vice Provost for Research, the Academic Deans Policy Council, and/or the Faculty Senate, as appropriate. The committee website provides general access to current meeting agendas, meeting minutes, membership, charge and important reports: <http://provost.miami.edu/universities-committies-and-initiatives/academic-computing-advisory-committee/index.html>. Some highlights of recent activities and discussions follow.

Online Lecture Capture

A Task Force has been charged to explore the use of lecture capture as a strategy for the continuity of our academic mission and produce an actionable report by April 1, 2019. The report will include: (1) A recommended scope of the lecture capture initiative; (2) Policy and procedural changes; (3) Recommended technologies; (4) Resources needed; and (5) A timeline for implementation. The Task force is co-chaired by ACAC members Karen Matthews and Cheryl Gowing.

Research Software (guests: Soyeon Ahn, Leland Deeds, Tiffany Plantan, Cameron Riopelle)

ACAC and the Information Technology Leadership Council (Chaired by David Chun and Luis Vidal) have found that there have been several requests for site licenses for software programs used during data analysis, with SPSS (statistical analysis), Mplus (data models), and NVivo (qualitative text analysis) coming up most frequently. A full range of issues regarding access to critical research software for students and faculty across the University were discussed. Allan Gyorke asked for formal statements in support of licensing software permits. He will review licensing software packages, cost and maintenance, as well as Cloud hosting, and will report back to the Committee.

Magic Leap (guest: Dean Jean-Pierre Bardet)

Dean Bardet noted that discussions are taking place to assign a resident on campus from Magic Leap. Precautions are being made to secure the network, devices and equipment that will be on loan to the University. A temporary space for Magic Leap will be located on the 5th floor of the McArthur Engineering Building. More than 60 faculty from across UM's schools/colleges are participating on this project. Sam Miller, is serving as the temporary point of contact; his email address is sam@magic leap.com. ACAC members on the Magic Leap A-Team will keep the Committee informed.

TOR Software, Balancing Security, Privacy and Academic Freedom (guest: Brad Rohrer)

Questions emerged from committee members following the blocking of the TOR software. Brad Rohrer was invited to meet with the committee and stated that last spring faculty were blocked from using TOR (a protocol that allows access to the internet anonymously). He noted that the change was to protect and audit sensitive information on the University's secure wireless

network from anonymous traffic or misuse. The alternative is using the University's guest wireless network, CanesGuest, which is accessible to anyone. ACAC advised on a memo that went to all faculty regarding Secure Canes and CanesGuest.

Active Learning Spaces, Classroom of the Future.

One of the initiatives in the Roadmap to our New Century is Education Innovation. The work of the "Quad" that proposed the Platform for Excellence in Teaching and Learning (PETAL) was discussed. Allan Gyorke and Dacia Simpson presented a report on the state of classrooms and have proposed an annual centralized budget to refresh classrooms across the University. The Committee created a Video Capture, Streaming, Virtual Meeting Resources Roadmap to UM. The Committee visited the new School of Communication Interactive Media Lab, a new active learning space in the School of Engineering, and the Johnson and Johnson 3D Printing Center of Excellence Collaboratory in Engineering.

Maker Spaces. (guest: Vanessa Rodriguez)

Vanessa Rodriguez reported that the Richter Libraries' Creative Studio met with several media lab shareholders from the College of Engineering, School of Architecture, Academic Technologies, and School of Communication to develop the UM Makerspaces Group. The group toured each other's labs to see their infrastructure and to determine what services, equipment, fabrications, and tools are available in their labs for students, faculty, and other interested users. Each lab houses at least one 3D printer, however, some use other fabrication equipment, such as laser and vinyl cutters, woodworking equipment, large plotters, and more. To assist the UM community in finding services, the Group has developed a website with a map linking the lab's locations; equipment and fabrications offered; point of contact; accessibility & guidelines, etc.

Online Education Task Force Recommendations (guest: William S. Green)

Dean William Green provided an update on the Online Education Task Force. Recommendation issued Jan. 24, 2014, reviewing the status of the report recommendations. He noted that several of the recommendation have yet to be brought to Faculty Senate for legislative approval, however many of the Task Force's recommendations were incorporated into the work of the Educational Innovation Roadmap Initiative. The ACAC members present endorsed the proposal.

Research Data Curation (guests: John Bixby; Sarah Shreeves; Tim Norris)

Sarah Shreeves and Tim Norris (Tim Norris) introduced the Data Curation Initiative Report. They elaborated on the Report's six concrete recommendations: (1) establish a cross-unit collaboration and supporting budget for research data curation infrastructure and services; (2) establish clear policies and guidelines for research data; (3) develop data repository infrastructure as a collaboration; (4) develop data management services; and (5) develop curricula for data management; and (6) continued assessment and socialization. Dr. Bixby, Vice Provost for Research, also noted that research data is a crucial initiative at the University and it aligns with the President's Roadmap Initiatives. A meeting took place in January that focused on policy for "retention of research data," Vice Provost Bixby added that well-curated data is Findable, Accessible, Interoperable and Reusable (FAIR). He requested slight revisions of the report and forwarding on to him for further action.