

Academic Computing Advisory Committee Meeting
Otto G. Richter Library– Third Floor Conference Room
Wednesday, April 24, 2019
12:30-1:30 pm

Attendees: Orlando Acevedo, Chuck Eckman, Joseph De Santis, Serona Elton, Moataz Eltoukhy, Ernie Fernandez, Cheryl Gowing, Allan Gyorke, Karen Mathews, Mary McKay, Rik Myers, Mistu Ogihara, Tally Yunes.

Excused: Shihab Asfour, Tom Robinson
Guests: Peter Fernandez, Brad Rohrer

AGENDA

Welcome

Chuck Eckman welcomed the group and new member, Rik Myers, representative for the Miller School of Medicine.

Approval of the March Minutes

The minutes from the last meeting held on March 27 were approved as written.

Announcements/Updates

Research Information Management Systems TF (RIMS) - Ernie Fernandez and Chuck Eckman

- Brad Rohrer reported that UMIT is working on putting an 'ID repository' into place for Canelink and WorkDay, and over the summer will engage the library in work on identity management for Esploro and other library systems. The goal is to reduce the number of electronic identities maintained at the University, forming a governance group around identity to determine what data sets matter, what to keep, and how to distribute.

UMIT is also working with CCS to understand the range of solutions on offer for research computing. They are looking at creating a consolidated entry point for requests by researchers with a list of offerings, whether managed by UMIT, CCS, or another group within the schools. UMIT will conduct a roadshow with the Schools and Departments to see what each doing with respect to research computing. There are likely a good number of under-utilized services and resources available to the campus community. Ernie Fernandez will provide an update on this work in a future meeting.

Director of Innovative Technologies - Allan Gyorke

- Academic Technologies has hired Max Cacchione to serve as the Director of Innovation for UMIT, reporting to Allan. Max, with previous Magic Leap development experience for the Dan Marino Foundation, will focus on work with Magic Leap and the UM community, helping UM translate ideas into workable applications. Max will coordinate who does what with Magic Leap across the University and connect parties to resources.

Lecture Capture Task Force Report - Karen Mathews and Cheryl Gowing

- Karen presented the final report of the Lecture Capture Task Force and thanked the members of the Task Force. Full data is available in a box Folder that will be shared with ACAC. The report summarizes data captured in surveys of all schools and interviews with academic units, including

the Registrar, Office of Emergency Management, and Accreditation, and provides a set of recommendations, including concerns that will need to be addressed and the formation of a pilot program using the Tier 3 classrooms as a test bed for what a wider roll-out of lecture capture for continuity might look like.

Chuck suggested the recommendations be foregrounded in the opening overview section. Although the pilot is initially proposed for the fall, it might not be possible to put into place until Spring. It is important the pilot address some of the concerns raised in Section 3 and include comparisons of the technology needed for various methods of lecture capture (e.g., Panopto vs Swivl), look at Zoom for video conferencing and/or lecture capture, whether multi-camera/multi-angle setups [faculty, screen, student]. We will need to determine the costs for storage & licensing, including possible use of Box, if we want to scale lecture capture for an automatic and massive rollout in the event of an emergency. This work should also present an opportunity to optimize the use of Blackboard by faculty, but may require increased training resources.

It was suggested the pilot be developed in additional phases. The first phase in Fall 2019 could focus on working with early adopters, those already familiar working in the Tier 3 classrooms and/or using lecture capture. Phase 2 in Spring 2020 could include a broader array of faculty with different comfort levels in using technology. We should look at targeting classes offered in both fall and spring [e.g. business calculus] and courses with many sections taught each semester. Pilots should explore how much content needs to be available for continuity – likely 2-4 weeks. Phase 3 in Fall 2020 would build on the lessons learned in the previous pilots, including preparation for potential capital budget requests in support of academic continuity.

The need for a University Academic Continuity Plan should be folded into the list of recommendations. Although the Task Force was charged with a focus on lecture capture, the latter cannot be the solution for all courses. Additional strategies for providing continuity may be more appropriate or practical, especially if power and/or internet connectivity is an issue. Faculty should be encouraged to identify other content, extra topics, etc. for additional assignments to make up hours. An ACP could include a menu of options for classroom continuity that could be offered to faculty. Basic information addressing continuity could be included in every syllabus. A repository of content, perhaps of older materials, could be created that could be drawn on in an emergency.

Cheryl will edit the final report as noted above, then send the revised report to the Provost. The Task Force may meet with the Provost to review the report as needed.

Learning Management Systems Review - Allan Gyorke

- Allan reported the Blackboard LMS contract is renewed through 2022. Before the next contract renewal cycle, Academic Technologies plans to review LMS options, including Blackboard Ultra and Canvas. DCIE relies almost exclusively on the LMS to run their online courses. They will work with AT on exploring the options in the market, with members of ACAC welcome to participate. If faculty does not think a change in LMS systems is needed, then we would remain on the Blackboard platform. The traditional version of Blackboard used at UM is hosted, but only updates once per year and will have limited development/support in the future. Blackboard Ultra is cloud-based with continuous updates and designed with a mobile environment in mind.

We will want to plan any migration to another platform or BB Ultra well in advance of the contract renewal. A new system should be run in parallel for at least three semesters so there is any opportunity to switch back to the same course, resolve issues, etc. It is possible to pull a list of the most active faculty users of BB and contact them for possible involvement in the LMS review. We need faculty participants to define LMS requirements and testing the systems. Rik Myers noted faculty could be surveyed regarding their current experience and LMS needs. Serona Elton volunteered to assist.

Student Representation on ACAC: An Idea - Allan Gyorke

- Allan proposed adding a graduate student representative to ACAC to provide a perspective bridging teaching, research, and student life. Academic Technologies has biweekly meetings with two liaisons from student government, both reappointed for another year term. One option is to have them serve as regular student representatives at ACAC, or periodically attend ACAC meeting to bring in student feedback. Another option would be to hold a focus group with a variety of students at different levels to get a sense of their concerns with academic computing.

Allan and Chuck will discuss what approach to take in the fall.

ACAC 2019/20 Agenda: Early Thoughts

- Conduct a focus group with students
- Updates on
 - Faculty Research Commons
 - Phase 2 of the Learning Commons
 - Magic Leap projects / Invite Max Cacchione
 - Developments in CaneLink

Meeting Adjournment

With no further discussions / Q&A, the meeting adjourned at 1:37 p.m.

Upcoming Agenda Items:

- Security (guest: Brad Rohrer)
- Streaming for the University
- Taking attendance electronically (ongoing, A. Gyorke, lead)
- Task Force on Online Education, part 2 (guest: Bill Green)
- Learning Platform: Microsoft 365 – awareness of features (A. Gyorke, lead)
- Tour of Thomas P. Murphy Design Studio Building SoA
- Tour of Toppel student interview recording studio