

Academic Computing Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

Otto G. Richter Library - Third Floor Conference Room

Wednesday, Jan. 30, 2019

12:30-1:30 pm

Attendees: Orlando Acevedo, Joseph De Santis, Chuck Eckman, Serona Elton, Moataz Eltoukhy, Ernie Fernandez, Cheryl Gowing, Allan Gyorke, Karen Mathews, Mary McKay, Mitsu Ogihara, Tom Robinson, Mei-Ling Shyu, Dacia Simpson, and Tally Yunes.

AGENDA

Welcome

Chuck Eckman welcomed the group.

Approval of the November Minutes

The minutes from the meeting held on Nov. 28, 2018 were approved without revision.

Announcements / Updates

Faculty Learning Communities - Allan Gyorke

- The theme for the 2019 Faculty Learning Community is “Augmented Reality and Spatial Computing.” There was a 50% acceptance of proposals from faculty who had already done some initial work in this area. The partnership with Magic Leap is still in development and there is not yet a lab on campus where faculty can experiment with equipment, etc. The augmented reality and spatial computing theme will most likely continue next year when we expect to have Magic Leap arrangements in place. The first meeting of the group will be next week.

ACAC membership

- It was noted that ACAC representation from the Medical Campus has been stagnant. Dean Ford has been contacted for new appointments and we will continue to facilitate dial-in access for more convenient participation in meeting discussions. There is a faculty Information Resource Committee on the medical campus addressing academic technology, administrative systems, and library resources. Allan Gyorke will investigate to see if there are opportunities of connecting in some way to ACAC, e.g., occasional joint meetings, committee liaisons, etc.

“Bringing Theory to Practice” grant - Allan Gyorke

- Academic Technologies has partner with FIU and Miami-Dade College on an American Association of Colleges & Universities grant, “Bringing Theory to Practice” that will create an educational innovation conference between all three institutions, similar to the UM Faculty Showcase.

Virtual Research Environment - Allan Gyorke

- Academic Technologies reviewed which commonly used research software packages are available to students via UM lab or download. They have identified five software packages students need for research but have no access unless working in specialized labs: Maple, SPSS, STATA, MPlus, and NVivo. They have worked with a few faculties to test providing access to these packages from any device via a virtual research network. The “Virtual Research Labs” environment is created via a downloadable file that launches Citrix. Testing has shown the software to be as responsive in the virtual environment as on a local environment. Users were

able to access local files, search and use data files, and save to a local H Drive. Saving to the desktop is not allowed. Academic Technologies is looking at tools to connect to the students' Google drive, BOX accounts, etc., loading as an additional drive to save work to/from the virtual environment.

- There have been requests to include SAS in the environment, however students already have download access and that package takes a long time to install. Other software requests are under consideration, such as 3D modeling software, however, these have different challenges given the graphic-intense resources needed to successfully use those products.
- The testing environment currently has a capacity of 5 simultaneous users. A capital budget request is under consideration to build a production environment with a capacity of up to 200 users. Further testing is underway.

Lecture Capture Task Force - Karen Mathews and Cheryl Gowing

- A letter to department chairs has been drafted requesting information concerning each department's plans, concerns, etc., regarding class continuity in the face of a campus disruption/disaster. Various administrative units and peer institutions will also be contacted for similar information. The information collected will be used to create a framework to recommend alternative approaches. It was suggested the group also contact external vendors to see if they have technology solutions that could assist in this type of situation.
- Ernie Fernandez suggested additional options should become available as technology progresses. Use of Zoom or Skype to conduct live classes with University faculty or in arrangement with other institutions might be a possibility.

Provost Visit Preparation

- The group discussed possible topics to broach with the Provost at the February ACAC meeting. It was suggested that an overview of issues addressed by ACAC in previous years would be helpful, as well as asking for information that could better inform the work of ACAC. This latter could include a discussion of the results of the McKenzie Consulting firm, how technology issues affect RoadMap initiatives, and the latest QEP results.
- Chuck will create an "ACAC Highlights" document outlining issues addressed or raised by the group and note ACAC's focus on being a problem solving entity.

Password Change Frequency - Tom Robinson

- Tom Robinson raised the issue of the requirement to change passwords every 6 months and whether our 2-factor authentication is truly as secure as one would want. Ernie Fernandez noted that they asked their security consultant what are the current best practices for authentication security. Longer passwords, such as 'pass phrases' are better than 8 characters with intermixed symbols, etc. The multi-factor movement has meant that it is not as necessary to change password as frequently as in the past. However, in polling colleagues at other institutions, no one seems to have yet stopped this practice and UMIT does not want to be on the bleeding edge on this issue.
- UMIT has hired an instructional designer to help write/develop new security education alerts and training programs. Sophisticated phishing attempts are occurring with increasing frequency. One recent instance had a dean's direct reports receive emails that purported to have come from the dean.

Meeting Adjournment

With no further discussions / Q&A, the meeting adjourned at 1:30 p.m.

Upcoming Agenda Items

- Provost visit (February 2019)
- Streaming for the University
- Taking attendance electronically (ongoing, A. Gyorke, lead)
- Task Force on Online Education, part 2 (guest: Bill Green)