

Learning With Technology Committee Report Academic Year 2014-2015

The Learning with Technology Committee (LTC) charges include: (1) Review and make recommendations to the University administration concerning the use of technology in face-to-face and online teaching and learning, including but not limited to planning and policies; (2) Serve as a liaison between the Faculty and Information Technology Services regarding learning technology issues; and (3) Serve in an advisory capacity to the Director of the Teaching and Learning Resources about issues regarding technology and learning. During the 2014-2015 academic year the Learning With Technology Committee investigated, reviewed and advised the campus community on the key issues listed below.

Learning Management System. Thanks to the tireless efforts of Melissa Thomas and the Instructional Design and Delivery team, the LTC monitored the university's transition from the Blackboard to the Canvas learning management system (LMS). LTC members reviewed the university's progress as the Canvas system was piloted and then rolled-out university-wide while the Blackboard system was permanently retired. Some LTC committee members even served as "Canvas Consultants" to assist and train colleagues in the new system.

Non-Traditional Class Resources. The committee liaised with the Salisbury University Bookstore in addressing ways in which professors can comply with state mandates when ordering non-traditional learning resources for their classes. Non-traditional resources might include electronic publications, publications with no ISBN numbers, etc. Working closely with the SU Bookstore's Textbook Manager Gerald Wood, the committee investigated, advised and reviewed the bookstore's policies and procedures related to the ordering non-traditional textbook and learning resources. From these meetings, a bookstore-produced informational and instructional document was created for faculty who wish to order non-traditional textbooks. The tutorial was created and distributed in early Spring 2015 for the Fall 2015 call for textbooks.

EasyBib Acquisition. The committee followed up on the SU Library's AY 2013-2014 purchase of its EasyBib software. The committee was briefed by Dean Beatriz Hardy and Instruction Coordinator James Parrigin on the new system and received evaluative data from student and faculty users.

Adobe Connect Contract Renewal. Melissa Thomas and the IDD staff briefed the committee on the university's renewal of the Adobe Connect conferencing software. The committee investigated the strengths and shortcomings of the system and explored ways in which the new Canvas LMS might relieve some of the demands on Adobe Connect usage.

Cloud Collaboration Systems. As the 2014-2015AY closed, the committee has begun investigating Cloud Collaboration systems. Mr. Bob Langan, Director of Technology, Wicomico County Board of Education, and Ms. Carla Lewis, Supervisor of Instructional Technology briefed the committee on how the Wicomico County School System uses cloud collaboration technology in schools.

Respectfully submitted by Dr. David Burns, Chairperson, Learning With Technology Committee

Senate Committee Report - Learning with Technology Committee – 2014-2015

Submitted by Brent Zaprowski

Below is a summary of the primary topics discussed by the LTC this year.

1. Following a charge by the Faculty Senate, the LTC worked with Gerry Woods to develop an informational worksheet to help guide faculty when they have educational materials which have no ISBN numbers.
2. The new on-line learning platform “Canvas” was successfully implemented during the Spring 2015 semester with 40 faculty testing the platform in the their classes. Full implementation of the platform will commence in Summer 2015. Blackboard will be discontinued by June 26, 2015.
3. The Library reported on the implementation of a new citation service called “EasyBib” in November,
4. Discussions were held during several of the spring meetings regarding the renewal of Adobe Connect. SU will be maintaining at least 35 hosts with more possibly being added in the future. The final decision to renew the contract had not been made at the time of this report, but it will likely occur.
5. Discussions about implementing a cloud-based collaborative system were held during several of the spring meetings as well. Discussions were ongoing as of the writing of this report.