Learning with Technology Committee Report Academic Year 2013-2014

LMS Review. The Learning with Technology Committee began the Fall semester with discussion on the pending Learning Management System (LMS) Review. The Blackboard contract is scheduled to expire in June 2015 and a formal review must be undertaken by the University. Dr. Cecilia Acocella volunteered to represent the committee on the official review team which is co-chaired by Melissa Thomas, Manager of Instructional Design & Delivery and Ken Kundell, Director of Information Technology. The entire committee is comprised of four faculty, an undergraduate student, several graduate students, Ken, Melissa and Ryan Bradshaw, Systems Administrator for Information Technology. Demonstrations of each of the potential vendors were setup in October 2013. During April, faculty were invited to sign-up to test the various systems from May 19 – June 30. Details of the entire LMS Review are available at http://www.salisbury.edu/instructionaldesign/lmsreview/.

Classroom Computer Updates. Committee member Seth Friese brought forth a concern regarding computer updates and changes to classroom computers. At the end of Summer I 2013, a computer was upgraded with new software and new TurningPoint version while a summer course was still in session. This upgrade disrupted the extended instruction of a Summer I course that was utilizing TurningPoint. During any given semester, changes to classroom computers need to be communicated to the faculty. An agreed upon notification with Jennifer Caddell, Manager of Classroom Technology, was identified. When a classroom computer is replaced or upgraded a note will be placed on the podium and an email sent to the faculty who primarily use that room.

Universal Design for Learning. Tessa Diperri from the Office of Student Affairs met with the committee to review the requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act as they affect online learning and universal design. She explained the requirements of ADA as they affected online learning and shared several resources for faculty that were available online at other institutions. Discussion focused on strategies that faculty should consider as they develop online instruction. Melissa Thomas plans to meet with Tessa during the summer months to develop guidelines and resources for faculty to better meet the requirements for universal design.

Website. The Learning with Technology Committee link from the Faculty Senate's website was given a refreshed look by the SU Publications office and updated with current membership and minutes from spring 2014 meetings.

IT Awareness. Under the leadership of Simeon Ananou Members of the committee attended a joint meeting with the University IT committee to discuss common concerns of service and security.

Issues. The committee serves as a forum for members to share concerns regarding issues that guide, support, or impede teaching and learning with technology. During the year, membership raised several issues for the committee to examine further: wireless access in Maggs, video conferencing tools, social media policy, and printing expenses, among others. Several were addressed successfully (wireless upgrades in Maggs) and others will continue to be explored in future meetings.

Submitted by Regina Royer and Melissa Thomas
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