

Academic Technology and Online Education Committee Minutes

March 12, 2013

HUB 123

3:30-5:00

Present: Christian Roberson (Chair), Nancy Betchart, Dan Bramer, Rich Grossman, Joann Guilmett, Hridaya Hall, Jong-Yoon Kim, Liesl Lindley, Scott Robison, Meagan Shedd, David Zehr, Robyn Parker (guest)

Unable to attend: Cheryl Baker, Denise Burchsted, Marylynn Cote, Zach Dziura, Kristine Levan, Mark Turski, Eun-Ho Yeo

Scribe: Christian Roberson

Acceptance of February 2013 minutes

Discussion: Systematizing Communication Loop/Review Path For Educational Software Purchases

Scott summarized a meeting held previously and introduced Robyn Parker. Robyn discussed how this came out of a need for a software purchase that required a university-wide site license for her class last semester. The initial discussion was all about having a process for educational software purchases that balances academic freedom but keeps crucial groups like ITS and LTOE informed so they can maintain/administer this software. Robyn's particular software was designed for business writing. Rich described it as a "non-process" process. One good reason to do this is to let people know what software is available for faculty to use on campus. From the ITS perspective there is a need to make sure labs can support the software and that it doesn't break other software used by other classes. It needs to be supportable by the help desk or at least something that they are aware of from a customer service perspective. Scott mentioned how faculty will come to LTOE with a tool and describe how this fits a need or an issue with it they need solved. It would be nice to have a mechanism of sharing what tools faculty are interested in/using/familiar with/etc. The shape of this type of system isn't known at this point. It could be simple like a Google Doc or more complex. Liesl commented on the HHP process of "call Jo-Ann" and how this type of repository would be helpful. David cited the a potential location on the new combined Frost Learning Commons website as a good place this information could be housed. Rich mentioned that there is also sufficient communication about these technologies and software packages. Ideally the communication between LTOE and ITS should be one that if one group knows both groups know. Jo-Ann pointed out this is more than just notification of software but should also include ways for faculty to communicate with each other about software and pros/cons. Robyn mentioned knowing what licenses are available as very helpful. Meagan asked about ways that students can purchase these items at cost or at an educational discount. Jo-Ann pointed out that it usually depends on the particular software and the license terms. ITS maintains a list of discounted software on the ITS website. Rich mentioned a discussion with the IBM rep and issues with SPSS in particular. Hridaya asked if graduate students are also made aware of discounted software like incoming undergraduates. Liesl asked from a practical perspective what we can do to help facilitate this process for information sharing. Jo-Ann mentioned the information ITS currently has and how things could be expanded. Hridaya asked more about the process and where a faculty member should begin for these types of questions/issues. Rich pointed out as we move to a process we don't want to eliminate people from the process. Scott mentioned LTOE as a potential starting point for software because in many cases there is a free option available or can resolve the issue without other interactions. Liesl mentioned that the ITS call for cluster software doesn't catch everything, especially if it

isn't installed in the labs. Robyn also emphasized the speed/timing of the process as well. Liesl asked if purchasing should be consulted. Rich summarized examples of cases which purchasing would likely need to be involved/consulted.

Discussion: Professional Development Funding for Online Education (Continued)

Nancy mentioned that she does have some money in her budget for course development and wondered if perhaps some of that could be used to support professional development to help with getting SIDI courses that are online in particular. Liesl mentioned some interesting EdX courses she is taking with online lab components. Nancy also mentioned potential grant proposals. The committee decided to table this item until April.

Update: LTOE Spotlight on Faculty

Scott mentioned that the spotlight is coming up April 24th. If you have anything worth noting or know someone that does please get in touch Scott. It's in Heritage from 3-7 or so.

Update: Turnitin Pilot

Scott asked if anyone had heard anything lately or had updates. Nancy asked for a brief update on the current status. Scott mentioned the timeframe and there has been less than stellar usage thus far. Liesl did use it once for an assignment and used it more as editing support for the students. She is also providing students with an anonymous feedback forum to collect student feedback on Turnitin. Jo-Ann had a fairly positive experience with it as a tool, in particular with the editing piece of the tool. Scott met with a couple groups on campus in smaller groups to demo the tool to help show them how to use it properly. Nancy asked when LTOE was hoping to have a compiled set of feedback from the pilot users. Scott said perhaps ATOEC could help with the formatting of questions. Liesl volunteered to draft a preliminary survey with Scott for further discussion at the April meeting. Hridaya asked where will this data/information/recommendation go?

Update: ATOEC Spring Elections

Christian pointed out nominations are currently running for faculty elections and ATOEC needs more members. If you know anyone who would be good or willing to serve please nominate them.

Next meeting: April 9, 2013, 3:30, HUB 123

Meeting adjourned at 4:45