

# ***Technology Advisory Council***

## **Meeting Minutes**

October 26, 2012, 308 WTH, 12-1:30pm

### ***Attendance:***

Members in Attendance: Michele Heron, Scott Courtney, Jeffrey Huston, Marty Jencius, Peña Bedesem, Katie Kozak, Aaron Near, Julee Henry, Scot Tribuzi, Jason Piatt, Beth Thomas, Sara Anthony

Members not in Attendance: Jason Schenker

Meeting called to order at 12:00pm, 10/26/2012

### ***Agenda Items:***

1) **Old Business:** Faculty Chair Jencius asked if everyone had a chance to review the September, 2012 Minutes. He also asked if anyone had any correction/additions/deletions. No response was heard. Jencius then put forth a motion to approve. Several seconds to the motion were heard and Jencius asked that if all were in favor, say yea, all opposed say nay. A majority of the council stated Yea and the meeting minutes were approved.

### **2) New Business:**

#### **a) Early discussion, miscellaneous topics**

As the meeting proceeded, Tribuzi brought up the aforementioned concept of doing a survey in the lobby. Tribuzi also stated that it would be important to capture the thoughts of off-campus students as they relate to technology support, online learning, etc. Jencius then stated that he had been thinking about surveys, and although he is not on a fan of surveys in general, he did have an example of a positive experience that garnered important information. He mentioned that CIIE (Center for International and Intercultural Education) asked questions at a program meeting for roughly 10 minutes and that faculty were very interested in sharing information and felt part of the process (rather than simply answering survey questions). Jencius asked if something like that might be a possibility for surveys conducted going forward. Henry stated that she thought that was a good idea but how would be solicit information from students? Jencius replied that student feedback is important and needed and that faculty feedback could be gathered at meetings.

Tribuzi stated that a plain survey would be difficult. Tribuzi then made a segue to discuss utilizing technology, and create a document or something similar that would be a best practices bullet point that is aligned with university best practices and university priorities. Piatt stated that University DL (Online Learning) is currently working on best practices. Henry stated that best practices for all of these topics should be available. Henry also stated that one of the roles of the IRC is to share information about technology best practices.

Jencius stated that this council is supposed to be advisory to the Dean and that a plan like this could be passed onto the Dean for approval and then he can decide whether to move on the plan or not. An example is the survey. A draft could be created then given to the Dean for review/approval. Jencius stated that this is an advisory committee in nature and should be exploring options for the plan and process, even if something may not be feasible. He stated that Piatt is the liaison to the Dean. Jencius stated that the best way to move forward may be as a group to take a look at how to best work on these ideas, form sub-committees and go from there.

#### **b) Review list of identified TAC priorities for 2012-13/Subcommittee assignments**

Jencius stated that based on ideas at the last meeting, the council had come up with some basic priority areas to address various initiatives, These included but were not limited to Types of training sessions the IRC should offer, the impact of social media and mobile technology on learning, data collections related to various aspects of technology use, and a support/information knowledge base.

Several members agreed these were indeed the topics discussed and agreed upon and that the group needed to formulate a plan to explore these ideas. Discussion went on for several minutes on the best way to approach working on these ideas and moving ahead.

Jencius suggested that the best way to formulate a plan was first to identify who would work on what subcommittee. Top that end, we as a group need to identify and prioritize 3 key areas and then who would work on those topics. After discussion, the following topics/groups were identified:

- 1) **Survey/Data Collection** (Tribuzi, Near, Courtney, Heron, Anthony)
- 2) **Identifying Training for IRC/Exploring Information and Knowledge Base concept** (Henry, Near, Bedesem)
- 3) **Social Media/Mobile Learning** (Jencius, Huston, Thomas, Anthony, Kozak)

After these groups were identified, Piatt suggested that he could make a special Blackboard Learn space that could be used by the various subcommittees to discuss, share ideas/documents, etc. Piatt stated that he would create the space and enroll members after the meeting had concluded. Note-the space was live and members enrolled by the end of the day, October 26<sup>th</sup>.

#### **c) Member Concerns (specific issues members have or have been asked to bring to TAC)**

Jencius asked if there were any specific member concerns or specific issues that members were asked to bring to the TAC. Henry stated that it would be helpful to have more training/assistance with Blackboard Learn. Piatt stated that starting January 2013, he plans to host regular walk-in support sessions in the other buildings (Nixson, Music and Speech, Gym Annex).

This prompted a mini-discussion about Blackboard Learn, with Tribuzi saying that someone needed to change the perception of Learn. He then shared a story he heard about a user that was having trouble with the system. Piatt suggested that we could share success stories, while Jencius stated that it might be best to target support on those who are not using Learn or using it very little. Near expressed the idea of posting syllabi. Jencius stated that issues related to merit for faculty may have an impact on faculty using Learn. Anthony stated that it would be helpful to explore the positive aspects of Learn and the value it can add to a class. Piatt stated he was working on this as well.

Jencius then stated that we should all think about concerns in our areas. Henry suggested it may be helpful to develop a list of experts in the building who faculty could go to for ideas and support (sort of a peer support network).

Jencius asked if there were any other issues/questions and several members then asked how we should proceed between sessions. Jencius replied that the groups should come back with a plan by the next meeting in November.

Meeting adjourned at approximately 1:07pm