IT Committee Minutes Sept 20 2019 link
Technology Committee Sept 20, 2019 Friday 2pm Bunnell 145 and Zoom

IT Members
Mingchu Zhang <mzhang3@alaska.edu>,
Orion Lawlor <lawlor@alaska.edu>, computer
Katherine Arndt <kclarnt@alaska.edu>, library
Jody Drew <jldrew@alaska.edu>,
Go Iwahana <giwahana@alaska.edu>,
Julie McIntyre <jpmcintyre@alaska.edu>, math and statistics
Sandra Wildfeuer <sjwildfeuer@alaska.edu>,
Bradley Moran <sbmoran@alaska.edu>, fisheries
Ex officio - Kelly Gitter <klgitter@alaska.edu> smart classrooms

Members in attendance:
Mingchu Zhang, Orion Lawlor, Katherine Arndt, Julie McIntyre, Sandra Wildfeuer, Bradley Moran, Kelly Gitter

1. Committee discussed selecting a new Chair and what that would entail for an academic year.
   a. Job for committee chair
      ● Committee meeting
      ● Set the agenda
      ● Attend AdComm meetings
      ● Take minutes
   b. Decided to wait to choose the Chair until the next meeting. This meeting, just talk.

2. Committee reviewed items that the 2018-2019 IT committee discussed.
   ● Faculty 180
   ● Blue Explorance evaluations
   ● Bandwidth, gaming
   ● Smart classrooms

OIT and Blue are from the provost office. Ecampus is different.

   a. Blue Explorance: There is a need to increase the response rate of Blue Evaluations.
      ● A different Faculty Senate committee is looking at Blue Explorance evaluations, and they did discuss issues last year, and have tried to get some improvement on it-- finishing our contract with Blue, then create our own form? Create an evaluation form with what we want.
      ● Discussion about student evaluations-- students like the paper, the Old way produced better response rates…
      ● Could we reach out to other university that uses Blue to find out how they increased response rates
b. Faculty 180: Faculty reviewed and chose Faculty 180, even though issues today. Faculty 180 to benefit administrators to help them get an overview, but not always easier
   i. A systematic problem, buying a specific tool, we get what they want to do, help a student that is not doing well. But there are cases where we see, when we buy a single purpose tool, faculty 180 is worse than a general purpose tool. General can be used to handle the special cases, higher quality, support, cheaper.
   ii. Faculty 180 now integrates with UAonline info

c. Other software the university invests include:
   - Concur Travel software, limits our time, takes our time
   - Nanook Navigator was purchased by statewide

3. What can this committee do?
   a. We can advise, we can be a platform

   b. What are mechanisms to have faculty input on when software works? Promises don’t always match with reality, with software.

   c. This committee can give feedback, even if we are not part of a decision. It is a process to help the decision making process

   d. Changes to smart classrooms will be run by our committee.
      i. Kelly will be conduit with OIT, grievances, complaints, other stuff, need details

4. Working plan for academic year
   a. We need good Synchronous data for developing schedules and to accurately represent the numbers teaching synchronously.
      i. Have different sections for face to face and for distance to keep track, Coding issue - inventory of synchronous education
      ii. Perhaps we need a survey or way to account for how we teach

   b. Best practices, tools for distance teaching. What are the worst practices?
      i. We have never had any change in our workloads, even though increased students in online courses
      ii. Increase in workload, how to deal with exams, other issues with distance delivery

   c. Too many solutions without clear goals, hangouts, zoom, collaborate, not clear
      1. Increase a section, the workload of the faculty increases -- faculty need to be recognized for this extra effort
      2. Increase in enrollment is administration issue
      3. technology issue