

Location: 145 Bunnell Bldg, e-campus and google hangouts

Members present: Orion Lawler, Josh Lupinek, Owen Guthrie, Sandra Wildfeuer

Members absent: Falk Huettmann, Mingchu Zhang, Richard McDonald, Andres Lopez, Casey Matney, Joshua Watts

#### Agenda

1. Monthly best meeting date for the Tech committee
2. Updates of discussed items of the fall semester
  - Blackboard,
  - Classroom
  - Distance delivery
  - Promoting to increase the funding for e-campus and OIT
3. Prioritizing the list and actions to be taken

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A Doodle Poll will be sent out to choose next meeting dates and times.

**Committee members present discussed updates and reviewed various topics to help decide what action this committee can take this academic year.**

How to get instructors more technology training?

- It comes to instructor preference whether they want to include it or not.

There is a committee looking at modernizing the student experience-- what do they say about use of technology?

- Right now they are talking about offering pedagogy for instructors

A positive change that was made: OIT changed how you each person can sign onto a network (*used for gaming?*).

- Now you can sign in with ua guest, on devices.alaska.edu
- You can register up to 8 of your personal devices. (apple tvs and other personal devices)
- It used to be a separate network for devices, called viconet. Before OIT had to create a special code, now it is much easier

What about the Registration experience?? the UA Online registration process is not great

- The web pages don't communicate with each other.
- From uaf.edu there is no way to sign on to classes, then they have to find uaonline, and the interface is archaic
- course finder and course search is confusing, you have to select which campus
- It needs to be updated.

UAF use of vendors. We pay vendors to help us use other vendors, and there are a lot of vendors.

- ellucian? is that the platform that gives us UA online? yes
- Is this a potential cost saving? What can we manage in-house?
- A site to bring students in that haven't been in school for awhile has launched, called myfuture.alaska.edu .
  - We paid the vendor, Academy 1, to take all information we provided to them and then they put it on a web page.
  - It is based on Tennessee Reconnect- give free tuition to get up to an associates
  - We provided all the material (data)- perhaps we could do this internally?

The Board is concerned about IT spending, but this doesn't count, it is vendor spending.

- The latest statewide claim that they cut the IT spending, but they shifted over, and now they are UAF employees
- This committee ought to use faculty senate to complain and offer solutions.
- Now that we have a representative sample at the table, when all members present.

If we try to improve the university by one issue, what will we tackle?

- We are committed committee members that can work together, in the past this committee was loosely defined.
- Could we move the needle on administration's perspective of IT as overhead or on instructor support?
- Having the technology working is like glue to hold us together
- The budget discussions, the thinking is that IT is draining cash out of university
- Having clear a straight forward on-line onboarding process will help engage students
  - Having clunky bizarre overly outsourced technology makes students go away

We can make a resolution.

- [Draft of a UAF Faculty Senate Resolution on IT](#)
- To support the efforts of modernizing the campus experience is central to modernizing the experience of students
  - what is the budget at OIT?
- examples- e-campus is trying to move the funding forward, does OIT have a voice at the table?
  - See what budget comes from Juneau. Right now OIT is cut to the bone
  - OIT doesn't do any blackboard professional development anymore
    - e-campus took it on, but there is not a lot of institutional capacity
  - Is there anything e-campus is doing that they could give back to OIT?-- Blackboard support?

Video services has a call out for bids-- for Zoom integration

- currently - right now it is a college, school, or department decision if you wish to use video services
- A negative is that all instructors do not have equal access in using technology in their courses. It is up to departments that can afford it to invest in resources to develop more synchronous education.
- A positive is that there are departments investing and exploring different options. They can report back to the campus what works to push to use something campus-wide.

UAF doesn't have a university wide Qualtrics software, but UAA has it.

- Here we have pockets of people paying for it, but as a modern university, why don't we have a university wide Qualtrix license?
- It benefits URSA, GI, all students...

There will be opportunities for Faculty led Learning Committees

- Like minded faculty get together and share best practices, things they do in the class
- eCampus picking up the torch
- Possible topics
  - could have one on 3-D or virtual reality

New: School of Management helped.

- There is now space in Wood Center for esport and other gaming initiatives.

We could draft a memo to faculty, president, provost, chancellor

As a committee recognize what happens around us leaders in different areas, if we are going to increase enrollment, trend with higher credit hours, modernize the student experience, OIT will be core to all of these initiatives and it will need to be a priority for funding in the future.

Before - old ways - Blackboard course support used to be at OIT. Now, if you want to use Blackboard well, to improve practice, go to eCampus.

- They prioritize asynchronous online courses.
- They work with anyone that comes in.
- It may not be sustainable in the long-term.
- A question with grade center calculations - go to OIT.
- A question about design - go to eCampus.

Discussed limited bandwidth and limited access to many eCampus courses for rural students around the state.

- CRCD are the experts at offering low bandwidth options for students, and they are good at it.
- eCampus focuses on the high bandwidth offerings.
- Students pay for their minutes each month, and use them to do homework, and attend on-line class. When they use their minutes they need to budget between class, or homework for their minutes, and often run out before the end of each month.
- Could we ask for an educational discount from GCI? Is it possible?
  - A discount on your bandwidth cap if you are currently registered for a UAF course?
  - Pam Lloyd is the VP corporate strategies from GCI and is on the business board for School of Management. GCI is talking about and may support actions in line with their mission of supporting connectivity in Alaska and in education, so perhaps this is a future conversation to have with her.
  - The in-kind donations
  - if we worked out domains that passed the caps, it is not a catch all
  - Do they have the power to have classes.uaf.edu domain not count toward someone's data?
  - This is a good idea in support of rural Alaska education.

