**To**: Faculty Senate

**From**: Academic Computing Committee

**Subject**: Final Report, Academic Year 2015-2016

**Date**: April 21, 2016

**Committee Members**

The Academic Computing Committee included the following people:

* Meg Burke, Chair (HSS), Ron Del Porto (ENG), Margaret Kertis (SCI), Aaron Mauro (HSS), Ido Millet (BUS), Robin Panda (ENG), Christopher Wassel (BUS), Chuck Yeung (SCI)
* Student Representative: Patrick Kress (SGA VP)
* Ex Officio: Dawn Blasko (Interim Associate Dean for Academic Affairs) and Larry Kosin (IT Manager)
* Computer Center: Shawn Alexander (Systems Administrator)
* Center for Teaching and eLearning Initiatives: Qi Dunsworth (Director of CTLI), Jessica Resig (Director of CeTLI)

**Committee Charges 2015-2016**

The Academic Computing Committee was charged with the following six items:

1. Interface with each standing School committee for computing to identify the technology needs of each school.
2. Continue to facilitate communication between IT and faculty. The committee could create a blog on new technology that faculty can access on the website. This can be a joint project with IT.
3. Investigate ways to reduce information overload and improve campus-wide communication.
4. Investigate ways to leverage smart phones, tablets, etc. Make it easier for students, faculty and staff to use mobile apps.
5. Support faculty and develop recommendations to assist with the transition of the Learning Management System from Angel to Canvas.
6. (Joint Charge) Work the undergraduate studies committee to find a way to let faculty know about the technology that is available on campus for them.

**Committee’s Response to Each Charge**

*Charge 1*

A survey was sent out to each standing School committee for computing to identify the technology needs of each school, during the fall 2015 semester (see Appendix A and additional email attachment). The overall results of the survey were the following:

1. The School of Business did not respond to the survey request.
2. Faculty campus-wide would like:
   1. Updated equipment – including SmartBoards in classrooms, as well as faster and newer printers and copiers around campus
   2. Additional Computer Lab space
   3. Improved lighting in classrooms to enhance viewing of projected material
   4. Stronger internet signals – in particular for nursing classrooms
   5. Rights to update software on office computers – eliminate the need for work orders to update software
   6. All computer podiums moved to the front of the classrooms
   7. Additional technology support
   8. Increased number of technology trainings for faculty and staff
3. Faculty (in H&SS) sent in an additional survey. The responses included needs for:
   1. New computer for faculty
   2. Updated computers in Turnbull Psychology Labs
   3. Knowledge of how to obtain a new computer
   4. Administrative rights to update software on computers

The committee delivered these findings to the Behrend IT department and to the faculty.

*Charge 2*

Larry Kosin is an ex-officio member of the ACC. He is the IT Manager. He attended all ACC meetings during the 2015-2016 academic year. Additionally, Shawn Alexander (Systems Manager) attended all of the ACC meetings of the 2015-2016 academic year.

The committee determined that Yammer would be the best platform for a blog. The committee conducted a trial run of the Yammer blog during the Fall 2015 semester. The blog did not add any additional information to what could be found on the campus IT website, CTLI/CeTLI website, and Computer Center websites. Additionally, the committee determined that Aaron Mauro was already managing a blog that addressed Charge 2.

Therefore, the committee created a one-page summary of the information on the IT, CTLI/CeTLI, and Computer Center websites (see Appendix B), the websites for each department, and the link to Aaron Mauro’s personal blog for Digital Humanities. This chart was distributed to the faculty as a quick reference guide.

*Charge 3*

The committee did not find a solution to charge 3. The chart (Appendix B) was one idea for decreasing the amount of information distributed to the faculty, however, this was not a true solution for reducing information overload.

*Charge 4*

Aaron Mauro’s blog addressed the utilization of smart phones, tablets, etc. in the classroom. Additionally, the chart (Appendix B) informed faculty and staff that the CTL/CeTL provided support and trainings for integrating technology into teaching.

*Charge 5*

The committee included Qi Dunsworth and Jessica Resig in all meetings. Qi and Jessica provided valuable input on ways that the ACC could support the work that they do with the CTLI and CeTLI. Many of the charges put forth to the committee overlapped with the work that they do on campus already.

The committee also met with Qi Dunsworth to discuss the monthly roundtable meetings that she hosted on the transition to Canvas from ANGEL. There was no additional assistance needed other than supporting the communication to the faculty about the meetings. Qi also suggested that she and Jessica continue to attend the ACC meetings and work with the ACC to facilitate trainings for the faculty on integrating technology into courses.

*Charge 6*

The chart (Appendix B) was created to address Charge 6. The chart was distributed in the Spring 2016 semester to all faculty and staff.

**Committee Recommendations**

1. Appoint Qi Dunsworth or Jessica Resig to the Committee as ex-officio members, similar to Larry Kosin’s position.
2. Work with CeTLI/CTLI to increase awareness of trainings available to faculty and to expand the types of trainings available to suit the needs of the faculty with regards to technology integration.
3. Work with IT to address the faculty needs as determined by the faculty survey (see Appendix A and email attachment) – updating technology, increasing lab space, funding additional SmartBoards, improve lighting in classrooms, administrative rights to faculty to update software without putting in a work order, etc.
4. Increase communication between the standing School committees for computing and the ACC to ensure that faculty technology needs are being met and heard
5. Gather data on *how* faculty use technology in the classroom – including case studies, suggestions for working/use specific apps or programs in both teaching and faculty research, etc.
   1. Distribute case studies and relevant recommendations for using technology in teaching and research to the faculty in a productive manner.

**Appendix A. Technology Survey Results for Charge 1**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **General Technology Needs** | **Number of**  **Responses** | **School** |
| \* See attached document for specifics – total responses from H&SS = 43  - Ability to update the software/ operating system (administrator rights for office PCs)  - Equipment (Office computer/ printer/ copier) is old & slow  - Two monitors or larger desktop monitors  - Various software needs  - Provide computer resources, equipment and software based on faculty needs  - Education & training and/or guide of available technology resources/ tools & what these resources can do | 3  5  2  2  2  3 | H&SS Digital Resources Committee |
| No feedback received |  | Business |
| \* Chair of SOE computer committee indicated there were no major needs at this time  - Instructor's podium in the front of the room of all computer labs  - Bright computer projectors (possibly replacing some) and better lighting controls in classrooms to improve viewing | 1  1 | Engineering |
| - A computer based testing center  - A stronger internet signal in the nursing simulation lab (reliable wireless internet access)  - More interactive SmartBoards in classrooms  - Increased computer storage capacity  - Improved technology support  - More computer classrooms  - Improved light control for projector viewing  - Ability to perform simple updates on existing office software or internet plugins (not needing to complete a form every time an update is needed)  - Education & resources to know what software programs are available and suggestions for ways theses resources could be used | 4  4  2  1  3  4  1  1  1 | Science |
| Total responses - 55 |  |  |

Yi (Elisa) Wu, Ph.D. (Chair of SOE Computer committee)

Heather C. Lum. Ph.D. (Chair of H&SS Digital Resources committee)

**Appendix B. Chart to Address Charges 3 and 6**

The following chart was created by the ACC and sent to all faculty at PSBehrend in Spring 2016

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Centers for Teaching and eLearning Initiative | Copy & Multimedia Center | Computer Center |
| * Enhance teaching, student engagement, and learning outcome by effectively integrating learning management systems, i.e. Canvas, Angel, or applications such as iClicker, turnitin, VoiceThread, Yammer etc.; provide training and support * Support faculty needs in designing and delivering hybrid, blended, or online courses * Enhance classroom teaching by providing syllabus review, class visits, consultation, teaching workshops, and teaching and learning research projects * Provide faculty development opportunities * Serve as a liaison between Behrend and Teaching and Learning with Technology, Schreyer Institute for Teaching Excellence, inform faculty of technology, resources, trainings, and grants   Website: http://behrend-elearn.psu.edu/ctei/ | * Support AV equipment in classrooms, including projectors, document cameras, Polycom system etc. * Copy Services - black & white, color copies, binding, tabbing, laminating, business cards, department letterhead & envelopes, etc. * AV equipment rentals - CD players, voice recorders, PA systems, projectors, video recorders, DVD players, audio/visual podiums, tripods, easels, portable screens, etc. * Reserving video conferencing classrooms * Professional video recording of presentations or campus events * Media duplication * Event signage   Website: https://psbehrend.psu.edu/intranet/copy-multimedia-center | * Support for all software/hardware, and network needs in offices, labs, and podium computers on campus, including installation, updates, repairs, troubleshooting etc. * Accessing PSU accounts & network * Assistance with personal & course web space * Seminars & trainings on general software * Running a computer helpdesk by students and for students * Reserve computer labs   Website: https://psbehrend.psu.edu/intranet/computer-center |

Looking for information about technology being used on campus? Head over to Aaron Mauro’s blog at http://sites.psu.edu/aaronmauro