Academic Computing Advisory Committee

September 26, 2016 – 4pm
Richter Library - Third Floor Conference Room
Coral Gables Campus

Agenda

1. Welcome (C. Eckman)   4:00pm

2. Minutes from August 2016 Meeting (to be distributed)   4:05pm

3. Announcements/Updates   4:10pm
   - ACAC website (C. Eckman)
   - CISO posting (S. Cawley)

4. Online Education Task Force Recommendations (guest: William S. Green)   4:20pm
   a. Task Force Report
   b. Minutes of Faculty Senate presentation August 17, 2014 (attached)

5. Adjourn   5:00pm

Upcoming/Continuing Topics:

- Data Curation Initiative Update (scheduled for November 28 meeting)
- Learning Platform: Microsoft 365
- Duo Authorization System
- CaneLink capability to upload an instructor's syllabus
- Taking attendance electronically
- Update on faculty testing of Canvas
- Storage solutions and security data
- Classroom of the future
- Streaming for the University
- University website
- Security
- Privacy
- Licensing of research software

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Attendees: *Orlando Acevedo, Charles Eckman, Serona Elton, Cheryl Gowing, Karin Mathews, Mary McKay, Marilyn Neff, Mitsou Ogihara, Juhong Park, Andrew Sawicki, Sigman Splichal, and Tallys Yunes.*

Ex-officio: *Allan Gyorke*

Guests: *William Green and Dacia Simpson*

Agenda

1. Welcome
   Dean Eckman welcomed the group; self-introductions followed.

2. Minutes from August 2016 Meeting
   The minutes of the August meeting were approved

3. Announcements/Updates
   - ACAC website
     - Linked from Provost web site. The site will contain the current meeting agenda, last year's minutes, and the committee charge
   - CISO posting
     - Steve Cawley has asked for volunteers from ACAC to serve on the Interview Committee for the CISO [Chief Information Security Officer]. Mitsu Ogihara volunteered and it was suggested that Burt Rosenburg and Michael Froomkin also be asked to participate if available.
   - UMIT Updates
     1. Allan Gyorke reported that UMIT is working on a Classroom Attendance System with the Law and Music schools. The Law School is interested in a solution that would not require faculty intervention, such a Bluetooth Beacon. The Music School is currently using a card swipe process. They would ideally like to connect their system to CBORD so they can download student information, but this will require finding a means to associate student name with their UMID [C number].
     2. Canelink: Students have consistently requested that class syllabi be made available for review before deciding to enroll in a course. The Faculty Senate expressed concerns about mandating such a process. Faculty are currently required to provide advance lists of required textbooks. Faculty can choose to upload their class syllabus in advance, but there is no policy requiring it. Applying a 'draft' watermark to the syllabus document, providing a generic syllabus not associated with a specific semester are possible options. Academic Technologies will continue to explore the technology involved in possible solutions, but the policy decisions will remain open.

4. Online Education Task Force Recommendations (guest: William S. Green)
   - Dean William Green provided an update on the Online Education Task Force Recommendation issued Jan. 24, 2014, reviewing the status of the report recommendations. He noted that several of the recommendation have yet to be brought to Faculty Senate for legislative approval, however many of the Task Force's recommendations were incorporated into the work of the Educational Innovation Roadmap Initiative.
     - Online course review process: Academic Technologies reviews all Laureate courses to ensure compliance with UM requirements, including weekly discussions with Laureate staff regarding student satisfaction reports, mid-course evaluations, etc. There has not been a systematic University wide evaluation of online courses.
     - Focus on online classes with high student-faculty interaction, rather than MOOCs: The only MOOC currently offered by UM is the School of Music's free "Entrepreneurship for Musicians" course.
     - Single online provider: The building of new online programs has been consolidated under the contract with Laureate. New graduate programs are continuing to be developed with Laureate, including programs in Education, Public Administration within Arts & Sciences, and Health Informatics in the School of Nursing. Discussions are underway with other schools. There is a new Laureate director implementing a fresh approach to marketing the programs. We anticipate expanding to the Latin American market with master's programs, possibly in partnership with Latin American universities.
     - Train/certify faculty: The Educational Innovation Roadmap Initiative touches on many of the issues covered in the Task Force Reports. The Roadmap proposal to create a center for educational innovation, PETAL [Platform for Education in Teaching & Learning], could be the focal point to ensure that faculty have the resources, technology, supplies, etc. to do their research and create new knowledge. Dean Green envisions a systematic and deliberate 5-6 year program to engage faculty by school/department to make sure there is a grounding in effective application of educational technology in teaching & learning, pedagogical practices for both in-person and online courses, etc. A voluntary program, focused on the 9 undergraduate schools could help to create a culture where teaching is valued and educational innovation/experimented encouraged. Programs such as the Faculty Learning Communities and the "Faculty showcase for Narrative Techniques in Technology", the latter funded by a Knight Foundation grant, have been successful and could be further expanded.

     - ACAC members shared current and potential challenges in fully engaging faculty to invest time to improve and experiment with pedagogical innovation. The School of Communication has been successful in sending faculty to boot camps, workshops, etc. to learn to adapt to rapid changes in technology and teaching. They could provide assistance in building similar programs elsewhere on campus. The current structures for tenure and promotion do not reward excellence in teaching, nor does teaching quality appreciably affect one's marketability in higher education. Faculty may be fearful to experiment with flipping the classroom, given the potential for negative student evaluation. It was also noted that those who do teach in a hybrid model have issues with students failing to do the advance classroom preparation;

culture changes in student behaviors are also needed. More discussion is needed about the realities of teaching in hybrid and online only environments.

- Next Steps: Dean Green would like ACAC's endorsement to work in concert with the Deans to develop a systematic approach to foster a culture where teaching is regarded as intellectual work and to create programs to encourage, but not force, faculty to refresh and develop their teaching and technology skills.   The ACAC members present endorsed the proposal.

5. The meeting adjourned at 5:00 pm.

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