

INSTRUCTIONAL TECHNOLOGY STANDING COMMITTEE

Penny Rice, Chair

2015-2016

Membership

- Dr. Anthony Ammeter, Associate Provost (non-voting)
- Mr. Alan Arrivee, Assistant Professor, Theatre Arts (term ended August 2015)
- Mr. James Ball, Deputy CIO for Academic Technology, Office of Information Technology (non-voting)
- Dr. Robert Doerksen, Associate Professor, Medicinal Chemistry (term ends August 2016)
- Dr. Maurice Eftink, Associate Provost (non-voting)
- Ms. Gazel Giles, Facilities Planning Receptionist, Staff Council Representative
- Mr. Jonathan Howard, Graduate Student Council Representative
- Dr. Elliott Hutchcraft, Associate Professor, Electrical Engineering (term ended August 2015)
- Mr. Benjamin Jones, Assistant Professor, Political Science (term ends August 2017)
- Dr. Michael Mossing, Associate Professor, Chemistry and Biochemistry (term ended August 2015)
- Dr. Timothy Nordstrom, Professor, Political Science (term ends August 2018)
- Ms. Penny Rice, Manager of Instructional Technologies and the FTDC, Office of Information Technology (chair) (non-voting)
- Mr. Wayne Shaw, Assistant to the Dean, College of Liberal Arts (non-voting)
- Mr. Ben Smith, Instructor and Assistant Lab Manager, Chemistry and Biochemistry (term ends August 2018)
- Dr. Nicolas Trepanier, Associate Professor, History (term ends August 2016)
- Ms. Rose Turner, Undergraduate Student Council Representative

The Instructional Technology Standing Committee provided guidance on a number of important technology projects during the 2015-2016 Academic Year. This report describes these projects and summarizes the involvement of the committee. Committee minutes are available at the Web address, www.olemiss.edu/ftdc/INSTTECH.html.

Classroom Technology

Each summer the Office of the Provost charges the Instructional Technology Standing Committee with the task of identifying candidate classrooms for technology enhancements and overseeing their implementation. This year, it was brought to the committee's attention that many of the existing Classroom Technology rooms had projectors that had reached end-of-life. These projectors could no longer be repaired, and replacement bulbs were hard to find and expensive. In addition, these projectors did not have an HDMI connection, which is becoming the standard connector type on newer computers and tablets. The computers in many of the classrooms were also in need of an upgrade. In light of this information, the committee decided that instead of seeking out new classrooms to enhance, they would use this year's Classroom Technology funds for maintenance on existing rooms.

As part of this maintenance, the following rooms, which had end-of-life projectors, received an updated projector, updated control system, and HDMI connectivity.

Anderson 231	Guyton Annex 207
Bishop 107	Guyton Annex 208
Bishop 112	Guyton Annex 209
Bishop 209	Lenoir 101
Bondurant 116W	Lenoir 107
Bondurant 111E	Meek 120
Bondurant 114E	Turner 239
Guyton Annex 119	Turner 243

In addition to the projector upgrades, the committee also recommended updating the computers in many existing rooms. A total of 109 classroom computers were updated to Windows 10. Fifty-three of these computers were also upgraded by adding more system memory and replacing the hard drives with faster SSD drives. Five computers were determined to be too old to update, and these were replaced with new Dell systems. Feedback from faculty who regularly use this classroom technology has been very positive, and there is much interest in continuing the program.

Blackboard

The Instructional Technology Standing Committee continues to provide valuable insight into the management and operation of Blackboard on the University of Mississippi campus. Blackboard is a Web-based, course management tool that has been in use by UM faculty for over eighteen years.

The Blackboard servers were updated to the latest stable release of Blackboard 9.1 in December 2015 in order to provide new and improved features. At this time, and based on the results of this committee's 2014 LMS evaluation, the Blackboard Core license was also added. New features included advanced calendar and formatting enhancements. The spellcheck option in the content editor has also been updated so that the spellcheck option is now always turned on. The upgrade also provided the addition of Portfolios. Students can now create electronic portfolios to showcase their completed work over time. These portfolios can be shared with other UM faculty, staff, and students, or links can be sent to external users as well. Instructors can also create assignments within a course, which require students to submit a Blackboard Portfolio instead of a file.

Several new building blocks and LTI integrations were installed in Blackboard this year to facilitate the exchange of information between publisher content and Blackboard, among these were MacMillan Education, Norton Publishing (InQuizitive), Hayden McNeil Publishing, and Hawkes Learning.

Lockdown Browsers

Over the last several years, there has been scattered interest around campus in exam creation software and lockdown browsers which attempt to secure the testing environment during online exams by preventing a student from launching other software applications or opening additional browser windows while the exam is in progress. The three main products on the market are Examsoft, Respondus, and Questionmark. In 2012, this committee, with the help of several faculty members, performed a review of the Respondus Lockdown browser. After the review, there was not enough interest or enthusiasm to pursue a campus license of the product.

Last fall, we had several instructors inquire about Respondus and another who expressed interest in Examsoft, which is currently being used by the School of Pharmacy. This prompted the committee to suggest doing another evaluation of the three main vendors. The committee then sought out faculty willing to pilot each product in a class. Once again, interest was minimal. Only one instructor came forward to pilot Examsoft. He presented his findings to the committee at

the end of the fall semester. After some discussion, the committee decided once again not to continue the pursuit of a campus wide license because there is simply not enough interest on campus at this time to justify the cost.

TACIT

The Provost's Office continued TACIT, the program to replace faculty desktops, for the seventeenth year. For the Fall 2014 TACIT cycle, the committee recommended a modified timeframe, pushing the program to later in the academic year. These changes allowed for purchases of the latest Apple products, which are routinely released in late October or November. These changes also moved the majority of the planning, ordering, training, and system delivery to the Spring semester. After reviewing feedback from the 2014 TACIT survey, the committee decided to keep TACIT in the Spring semester for the 2015-2016 TACIT cycle.

Other

Based on the success of the previous year's Technology Enhancement Week, offered during the fall semester, the Instructional Technology Standing Committee recommended that the Faculty Technology Development Center (FTDC) continue to sponsor these workshops each year. During September 2015, twenty workshops were offered, including: Adobe Connect for Online Meetings; All About the iPad; Auto Captioning with YouTube; Blackboard Adaptive Release; Blackboard Blogs, Wikis, and Journals; Detecting Plagiarism in Blackboard Assignments via SafeAssign; GoAnimate; Inline Grading for Assignments in Blackboard; Introduction to Blackboard; Introduction to the Blackboard Grade Center; Managing Your Blackboard Content—Purging, Recycling and Updating; Microsoft Access; Photoshop; Self and Peer Assessment in Blackboard; Tips for Successful Online Testing in Blackboard; UM Box and Vault; Multimedia Classrooms; Using OneNote and Camtasia—Tidbits for Getting Your Lectures Online; Using the Blackboard Retention Center; and Using Video Everywhere in Blackboard. Sixty-four instructors took advantage of these training sessions.