INSTRUCTIONAL TECHNOLOGY STANDING COMMITTEE
Penny Rice, Chair
2018-2019

Membership

- Dr. Anthony Ammeter, Director of Outreach, Associate Provost, Dean of General Studies, Associate Professor of Management & MIS (non-voting)
- Mr. Terrian Garvis, Graduate Student Council Representative
- Mr. Brian Hopkins, Deputy CIO for Academic Technology, Office of Information Technology (non-voting)
- Dr. Winn Hutchcraft, Associate Professor of Electrical Engineering (term ends August 2021)
- Ms. Penny Rice, Manager of Instructional Technologies and the FTDC, Office of Information Technology (chair) (non-voting)
- Mr. Steven Ridout, Internal Auditor, Staff Council Representative (term ends August 2019)
- Ms. Kristin Rogers, Assistant Professor, JD Williams Library (term ends August 2021)
- Mr. Wayne Shaw, Manager Transfer Equivalency/Data Analyst, College of Liberal Arts (non-voting)
- Dr. Nicolas Trepanier, Associate Professor, History (term ends August 2019)
- Dr. Tamara Warhol, Associate Professor, Modern Languages (term ends August 2019)
- Dr. Timothy Yenter, Associate Professor, Philosophy (term ends August 2020)

The Instructional Technology Standing Committee provided guidance on a number of important technology projects during the 2018-2019 Academic Year. This report describes these projects and summarizes the involvement of the committee.

Learning Managing System (LMS) Evaluation

The University of Mississippi has hosted the Blackboard Learn LMS platform since 1998, when the product was named CourseInfo. In April of 2014, the Instructional Technology Standing committee was given the task of performing an evaluation of the different Learning Management Systems in order to select the LMS platform that would be in place at UM for the next five years. Besides the cost benefits of a five year contract, the effort of migrating to a different LMS

requires months of work on the part of the faculty preparing courses and IT integrating the chosen LMS with the student information system, so we would not want to migrate more frequently than every five years.

In 2014, after an extensive campus-wide evaluation process, reviewing all faculty and staff feedback and evaluating the five year costs for each product, this committee made the recommendation to the Provost's office to remain with Blackboard, Inc. and to upgrade to Blackboard Learning Core for the next five years.

Since we are now approaching the end of the five year Blackboard contract, this committee was charged with the task of determining what the evaluation process (if any) should look like in 2019. The majority of the committee felt that insufficient time had passed since the last evaluation to warrant a full-scale, campus-wide review process. The committee voted to scale back and perform a limited evaluation within the confines of the committee, considering only two vendors, Blackboard, Inc. and Instructure Canvas. The committee will review the products over the summer of 2019.

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. Funding for this project is provided by the Provost's Office. In 2019, instead of soliciting departments for room/upgrade requests as has been done in previous years, it was decided that the Classroom Technology funds would be used to upgrade projectors and control systems in existing Classroom Technology rooms. This was necessary due to the fact that many of the older projectors have reached end-of-life and also do not have HDMI ports to allow connection to newer laptops.

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 twenty-one years.

The Blackboard servers were updated to the latest stable release of Blackboard 9.1 in December 2018 in order to provide new and improved features that

benefited both instructors and students. Among the new features added were a new look with cleaner interface and more responsive design, the ability for instructors to record audio and video feedback for students, attendance tracking, grade center and assessment enhancements, cloud storage integration, the ability for students and instructors to download an annotated PDF file for assignments graded using the inline grading tool, chemistry notation support in the content editor, and mobile optimization enhancements. The ability to grade assignments via phone or tablet was also added to the Blackboard Instructor mobile app.

Several new building blocks and LTI integrations were installed in Blackboard this year to facilitate the exchange of information between third party systems and Blackboard, among these were RealizeIt, OLI Open Learning Initiative, and Hawkes Learning.

TACIT

The Provost's Office continued TACIT, the program to replace faculty desktops, for the twentieth year. In the spring of 2019, 113 faculty computers were replaced as part of the TACIT program, making this the largest TACIT program to date. Thirty-six training workshops were held for the TACIT recipients.

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 2018, thirty-two workshops were offered, including: Automated Attendance Training; Blackboard Adaptive Release; Blackboard Blogs, Wikis, and Journals; Best Method for Embedding Videos into a Blackboard Course; Blackboard Grade Center; Blackboard Portfolios; Class Engagement through Clickers; Detecting Plagiarism in Assignments via SafeAssign; Inline Grading for Assignments in Blackboard; Introduction to Blackboard; Learn About the Cloud with UM Box, Google Drive, and Microsoft OneDrive; Live Interactive Video Conferencing; Managing Your Blackboard Content: Purging, Recycling, and Updating; Photoshop Basics; Qualtrics: Online Surveys and Assessments; Self and Peer Assessment in Blackboard; Tips for Successful Online Testing in Blackboard; Using Multimedia Classrooms; Using the Blackboard Retention Center; and Using Rubrics in Blackboard.