UCLA FACULTY COMMITTEE ON EDUCATIONAL TECHNOLOGY

Minutes of Meeting October 29th, 2012

Approved January 11th, 2013

Final

Committee Attendees: Bawn, Christou, Landaw, Lew, Loeher, Mamer (Chair), Pires, Rugg, Snyder, Waugh Guests: Rose Rocchio (OIT) , Rob Rodgers (OID), Ed Sakabu (OIT)

1. Quick Items

   a. The FCET welcomed new members Paul Barber, Nicolas Christou, Elizabeth Landaw and Joan Waugh.

   b. Berkeley announced it was no longer going to use Sakai as its Course Management System. It will be piloting Instructure's Canvas, (a relatively new player in the open source CMS arena) with 3-4 classes in Spring 2013. Over the summer Indiana, Michigan and Berkeley announced they were abandoning Sakai. Currently Santa Cruz, Davis, Merced and UCOE are running Sakai and they will likely begin looking at other options. In Spring 2005, it was the FCET that recommended that UCLA converge on a single CMS and organized the process to have the campus evaluate open source options for a campus CMS. At that time the choice was narrowed down to Sakai and Moodle with Moodle ultimately being chosen.

   c. Mobile Agility Survey: As part of an Educause/Frye Institute capstone project, Rose Rocchio asked the committee to give feedback on a student survey on mobile. The goal of the study is to learn more about student wants/needs and trends in usage and to ultimately publish their research findings.

2. Wireless Access in General Assignment Classrooms (Rob Rodgers)

   Long ago, Campus Telecommunications Services (CTS) began putting wireless access points on campus. CTS did this with the understanding that *the Faculty* wanted no wireless in the classroom because it would create too much distraction. Over the years, CTS expanded the network but not in the classrooms. Current wireless signals found in classrooms is 'bleed-over' from access points meant to cover other areas. Today students and faculty have more reasons to use and expect wireless access in the classroom. In addition, classroom equipment like projectors and playback devices are also moving to a wireless connectivity model.

   In a recent survey of North Campus faculty (n=~150) regarding research infrastructure the number one priority voiced was improved campus wireless access.

   The current proposal is to have a dual-network strategy where the existing campus wireless network would be expanded to explicitly cover classrooms and in addition a closed/limited access network would be installed for instructors and classroom equipment use.

   The committee had some concern that a dual classroom network could create more confusion as the campus already has three official wireless networks (eduroam, UCLAweb, UCLAwifi) and cautioned that reliability and ease of use should remain a top priority.

The committee was also concerned about funding or the reallocation of funds to support the effort. Rob Rodgers noted that IT Services stated it would fund the expansion of the campus wireless network but cost estimates have not yet been given and that the proposed instructor network would cost approximately 260K.

It was also noted that rather than try to implement an on/off switch for the classroom network, which has some practical difficulties due to wireless signals bleeding into adjacent classrooms, a strategy of emphasizing proper classroom etiquette within the student code of conduct could be pursued. This is something currently done in the Anderson school with surprising effectiveness.

The committee agreed to circulate a draft email stating the FCET's position that we move forward and investigate ways to improve wireless in the classrooms and that coupled with information about funding sources this proposal should be forwarded to the ITPB.

3. Media Casting Services (Rose Rocchio, Ed Sakabu OIT)

   Currently there is no campus wide FAQ on podcasting. Many faculty are unaware that there are multiple channels available for publishing video and audio podcasts. In addition, there is no automated workflow to help make things automatically available via the different channels.

   On campus today there is iTunesU (public and private), Bruincast (public and private), webcasting of public events and UCLA YouTube.

   Rose Rocchio from the Office of Instructional Technology proposes a common request process hosted on a new domain mediacasting.ucla.edu and the creation of a media-casting coordination group.

   There are 309 universities on iTunesU. UCLA has an iTunesU presence but only about 10-15% of its Bruincast content is currently in iTunesU even though more is eligible. The current media casting request process doesn't do anything but notify iTunesU staff that an instructor is interested, the proposal is to automate more of this process and more closely link Bruincast and iTunesU.

   One member of the committee commented that they do not use iTunesU but rather if they are looking for an online lecture they go directly to that University's site. Rose offered that one advantage for students to use iTunesU is that they can subscribe to the podcast series so that they are automatically sync'd to their device.

   Other members cautioned that UCLA needs to think carefully about its image and the quality of what gets posted. The example given was from Anderson where Mediasite recoding is available in classrooms and students can request that a lecture be recorded for later review. Most of this request is handled automatically and published to the web in some cases without faculty being aware.

   The committee felt it was worthwhile for the campus to articulate better what options are available and to even test out a workflow for iTunesU, but stressed that the workflow should also allow for control of the content and its quality. The committee agreed to follow-up the discussion via email.

4. There was not enough time to discuss current online course developments on campus.