

# FETC Regular Meeting

2016-10-19 2:00-3:00 PM Tate Center Room 211

Present: Adem Ali, William Bares, Christopher Boucher, David Desplaces, Gary Jackson, David Parisi, Alem Teklu, Zach Hartje (ex officio), Deana Caveny-Noecker (ex officio - Associate Provost), Mark Staples (guest - CIO), Andrew Bergstrom (guest - IT)

## **1. Introduction of Mark Staples, our new Chief Information Officer (CIO).**

Mark Staples – What is the charge of the Faculty Education Technology Committee (FETC)?

David Desplaces – Provide advice to CIO, review policy, recommendations

David Parisi – Talk about examples of things done in recent past

David Parisi – Reviewed distance ed, some reports 3-4 pages, issues of feedback from new technology releases (Yammer, online eval), process for equipment upgrades, funding, Google mail. Anyone can bring an issue to this committee. Still need to develop a way to capture unmet needs.

Deana – One challenge is how to be more strategic versus responding to individual complaints while keeping in mind that some individual complaints represent broader issues.

Alem – We can have a planning meeting of FETC members only to think of how to gather input on issues so we broadly represent our respective Schools within the College.

Deana – The Faculty Senate can change the charge of FETC, if you find it helpful to do so.

Mark Staples – This post is my 7<sup>th</sup> college in 32 years including Indiana U, Northeastern (four years), prior to Wentworth Institute. Worked as IT head (similar to Zach Hartje) at three different schools. I have been an adjunct faculty member at Northeastern U. In my CofC interview I observed there is a perception that our IT shop is not as tuned to academics as it should. I reviewed faculty minutes, information from IT Strategic Advisory Committee (ITSAC), from Battery, etc. trying to understand their respective roles. I will closely link with the Provost, libraries, IT to enable functional connections. In my view, the ‘I’ in CIO stands for advancing the institution. 90+% of our revenue is from tuition. For example, how can we make it easier for faculty to enter grades? We (IT) want to put ourselves in your place. I also heard faculty senates at other places say that faculty feel technology is imposed on them by IT.

Alem – When did you begin?

Mark Staples - Friday Sept. 30. I plan to meet with Deans twice a semester since each School has its own needs and direction, issues. Some of this gets lost. How many members on ITSAC?

Zach – 25

Mark Staples – We will have lots of information on what each School needs. Let’s bring these needs into our governance process for setting priorities.

Adem Ali – Will you review how things work now – have weekly meeting with units in IT, and functional units out of IT. Plan to have ways to meet with individual departments.

Adem Ali – How would you prioritize?

Mark Staples – Issue is in governance, (Ali – pleased to hear this attention to faculty/teaching). We currently don’t do well at informing the community of what issues are being worked on. It would be great if we can better communicate what is being worked on and offer a timetable for work in progress. This year we have \$900,000 approved for classroom technology upgrades, but only ten rooms can get an upgrade due to coordination issues. I see as a goal to take us to a digital university considering the impact on administration and teaching. This area is the topic of my Ph.D. dissertation. This issue crossroads with financial aid and student debt. Our future students may not have touched a book, but use devices instead. Are we ready for true digital native. What if – grades could be entered into D2L, then into Banner – wouldn’t that be easy.

David Parisi – We have been down these roads and have seen some pushback from faculty. The digital native may be a myth. I am not so sure that changes to respond to digital natives will be as drastic as some may think.

Mark Staples – I think we are 7 – 10 years away from seeing this phenomenon. In our world, we should be thinking of it. Higher Education teaching is still using the same methods as in day of Socrates. Faculty have a full load of teaching, research, service, and must keep up their expertise and pedagogy. I understand that it is not a short path to reach the goal of a digital university. I see the issue being enabling everyone to do what they need.

David Parisi – The myth of the digital native may push us to rush to fads like *Second Life* in classroom.

William – How do you see us testing new technologies on small scale before they are introduced into the classrooms?

Mark Staples – At Northeastern, we created a tech lab where people could try out technology - an Innovation center. In a past post at an academic medical center, we had 10 smart classes (1 of every 10 rooms), but 70% of classes in those rooms didn’t use the technology. Explore new ways, work with registrars so we schedule classes that best use the tech. We know that art history class, may need high end projector.

## **2. Minutes of last meeting**

Minutes are approved as posted to the FETC web site.

## **3. IT Minute**

David Desplaces – Think of how time is spent on trouble shooting versus strategic ideas. Literally had an IT minute. I suggest that every 6 months, we invite all faculty to talk to Mark.

Mark Staples – I expect to have open forum with faculty and I am happy to do this.

Deana – Committee duties – service, support, appropriate uses, education of those uses, consider and plan long range use, discuss suggestions, advice provost on educational technology use, advise CIO. ITSAC was created by IT to serve the CIO. CIO partners with FETC to connect with faculty/forum.

#### **4. Undergraduate / graduate catalog**

Alem – This agenda item came from a question from faculty. The undergrad/grad catalog is a PDF file. This year format has changed. Why?

Deana – The previous vendor is no longer available. We needed a new, more robust solution. We did an RPF and selected a new product which integrates tracking of curriculum changes with the generated catalog.

Alem – This new software requires more steps to click.

Mark Staples – Which software?

Andrew – Accalog

Deana – CurriculLog is the curriculum management counterpart.

David Desplaces – classroom upgrades some during semester, some timing issues of when changes happen. Sometimes management misses on informing and explaining changes.

Alem – Can new vendor generate a PDF?

Deana – We can check on whether it can generate a PDF.

Mark Staples – PDF is cumbersome on mobile devices.

David Parisi – It would be awesome to have both mobile friendly and PDF for desktop access.

Mark Staples / Deana – Agree. We can look into this.

#### **5. Office 365 Update**

Andrew – We have migrated over 4000 e-mail accounts. Next steps are to reconfigure mail flow so it runs entirely in the cloud and implementing hosting services to aid authentication so that you can login if College has issues locally. Try going into portal.office.com Login with CofC Id. There are planning tools, etc.

Ali – When I make an appointment, the location is sometimes shown as in some other place.

David Desplaces – For example search “liberty”, but Office 365 searches for other places not located at CofC.

Deana – This is the same problem on a device with e-mail.

Andrew – Office 365 is just doing a literal word match.

Deana – The old outlook applied frequency to estimate the most likely matches.

Deana – on catalog – provides a search window. Can select courses, programs, print.

## **6. Wireless presentations in classrooms**

Zach – We have a solution for wireless presentation from mobile device to classroom projector/smartboard/TV. The network infrastructure limits make it harder to try web-based solutions. Ready for FETC to beta test. Try in “burn in room” in Bell building.

Alem – Time is running short. We will follow up by e-mail on remaining item –

## **7. TLT conferences (will communicate via e-mail)**

## **8. MATLAB campus-wide licenses**

Mark – The cost for a site license is not much more expensive than what we pay now for three different licenses. Can go to site license for not much more. Part of me says if available it would be used. Cost difference?

Alem – I heard the cost is \$9k to \$16k/year.

Mark – We might be able to negotiate price down.

Ali – My project may pay another \$5k for more licenses.

Mark – Then it sounds like we should just go to site license.

Alem – Let’s do survey to see how much interest there is in having a site license.

## **9. Other issues**

David Desplaces – Moving the tenure/promotion and post-tenure review site access on Society to only from on-campus, means that we cannot access from off campus during hurricane.

Deanna – Let’s talk more about this after the meeting.

Alem – We are adjourned. (3 PM)