Faculty Senate, January 2015

Faculty Educational Technology Committee: Recommendation

The FETC reviewed the Yammer communication system proposed by IT as a replacement to the current list servs (Faculty, faculty staff and some administrative list servs).

The committee collectively or individually tested and were offered the opportunity to ask clarifications from IT. The committee assessed that Yammer offers flexibility across platforms (computer, tablets, mobile devices or all), operates like social media (ease of use and also allows for instant interaction, and feedback), is currently offered at no cost to the College (as part of the license agreement with Microsoft), and still allows the option of opting out.

While processes and rules on how to filter posts to the all-faculty-and-staff group is currently in the works (one option is to have that all-group moderated for content to avoid excessive spamming) and assuming that Yammer usage meets the FERPA requirements, FETC unanimously supports Yammer as the next communication system for the faculty.

On the next page is the Yammer notification sent by IT (senators are welcome to test Yammer ahead go the meeting – currently in a test version).
Yammer

IT was a little too eager this morning to launch a new social networking and communication tool for the campus. As a result, you may have received a message from Yammer@cofc.edu asking you to login to Yammer, a social networking application. While this email was legit, the message was sent in error.

Yammer (yammer.com/cofc.edu) is currently in beta test phase. Information Technology along with members from Staff Advisory Committee (SAC) and Faculty Educational Technology Committee (FETC) have been testing Yammer and providing feedback to determine if it meets campus needs. There is process that IT follows for administrative approval before applications such as Yammer can go into production. We seek the endorsement from IT governance committees and other offices at interest. Following approval by the Executive Steering Committee (ESC), IT will initiate our own project implementation methodologies:

1. Create formal IT project and communication plan
2. Finalize terms of service and appropriate use guidelines
3. Outline IT support and training model
4. Create set of policies, responsibilities and processes that guides the IT management of Yammer

So stay tuned for a technology solution that will enhance and facilitate communications across campus.

In the meantime...

Our eagerness must have been contagious! Since the invitation was sent out this morning over 50 people have joined! So if you would
like try out Yammer, please send any feedback about the tool to the
Helpdesk. Please be aware that this tool is in beta testing phase; no
policies, best practices, training documentation or approvals have
been finalized and changes to the application are to be expected if
Yammer goes live.

We look forward to implementing a new social networking solution
that will meet the campus needs.

Share this:

- Twitter
- Facebook
- Email
- Google