FETC Regular Meeting

April 12, 2018 11:00-12:00 am Beatty 212

Present: David Desplaces, Geoff Timms, Deanna Caveny-Noecker (Ex-Officio, Assoc. Provost), Wendy Cory, Douglas Ferguson, Zach Hartje (Ex-Officio, TLT/Deputy CIO), Alem Teklu

1. Minutes of March 15 meeting

2. IT report – Zach (in Mark’s absence)

Updates on Classroom upgrades – created an RFP at the end of last academic year to get recommendations on classroom upgrades from a consultant, now we are not using a consultant so talks are ongoing to do this internally, potentially with some temporary employees from a temp agency. Going through seats, type of desks, etc. The analysis will hopefully begin early this summer. After this study, IT will work with departments and academic advisory groups to better understand faculty needs, put together a renovation and refresh schedule for classroom upgrades. This is essentially a new project. A number of classrooms are eligible for upgrades. We were doing 20 per fiscal year. With budget reductions this was dropped to 10 and 13 classrooms. A lot of this is shared work between IT and Physical Plant (whose budget was reduced significantly and slowed this process). Averaging 20 a year, this would take 12 years between a particular classroom’s renovations. IT would like to do the utilization study and look at classrooms as tiers, based on the available technology in the room. The needs of the institution will be used to categorize classrooms, as opposed to a one-size-fits-all.

Deanna – has there been any thought of renovating classrooms in a less costly way, with no or minimal tiers? The per-room price has traditionally been high.

Zach – Already looking at ways to reduce the costs, ex the document cameras that feed through a piece of hardware, maybe we can feed this through just software and reduce the cost of infrastructure.

David – don’t want to look at just utilization, inventory of classrooms. Zach says this is not all that will be considered. Working closely with registrar’s office, department chairs and room schedulers. David says this committee needs see that this discussion is opened up to faculty for feedback on needs for classrooms. Deanna thinks it is important to talk to department chairs and not just faculty. Zach says they are putting together a task force to determine what a high end classroom would be. Wendy pointed out that classrooms in RSS and Maybank have additional whiteboards on the sides of the room, but in order to categorize them as rooms that can hold 40 students, desks are pushed up against all the walls and these boards are not accessible by the
Alem asked about wireless classrooms, in order to use Apple TV’s, Zach pointed out that this classroom in Beatty has that capability, and that the new Rita Hollings Science Center classrooms have this as well.

David brought up the fact that students cannot always access the wireless network in classrooms and that this needs to be looked into. Also it would be good to know how many/which classrooms have all of these updated capabilities so we can share this info with the Faculty Senate.

• Updates on Computer replacements – IT is working to create tiers for replacement. Acquiring new computers in departments needs to be centralized in IT and this is ongoing.

• Updates on Distance Education – a lot of demand for teaching online this spring. Working on ideas for proctoring in online courses, one that all online courses could be used. Still using OAKS virtual classrooms for online courses. Zoom can be used for free for classes under 40 minutes, IT is talking to Zoom about an institutional license (for instructors and students). Blackboard and D2O hold the largest market share.

3. TLT report – Zach

The TLT conference was a big success, ~100 faculty participated. Already starting to make plans for next year. Had participation from outside institutions, which was a real growth for this conference and hope to see more of this.

Have new IT liason for SSM and will soon search for a new one for LCWA.

4. Faculty survey – Zach

Zach shared a document, “IT’s Response to Survey” on question Q.2.8, “What are the needs currently not met and not captured above?” 80-90 responses are summarized in his document. Will be included as an appendix in final report. IT has hired a Director of IT Communications.

5. Final FETC report – Will be finalized around May 15 and sent to the Faculty Senate, along with FETC annual report.

6. Others