Distance Education and Learning Technology Committee
Meeting, March 23, 2016 at 3:15 pm in Brewster B-104

ATTENDANCE:
Regular Members: Rose Bailey; Carmine Scavo; Timm Hackett; Kathleen Sitzman;
Ex-Officio Members: Amy McMillan; Lida Cope; Wendy Creasy; Anthony Britt; Biwu Yang
Guests: Lori Lee; Ginny Sconiers; Matt Long: Carey Smouse

AGENDA –

1. Approval of March 2, 2016 minutes under motion by Carmine Scavo and a second by Lida Cope with unanimous approval.

2. Update on Blackboard Roadmap (Note, some of these enhancements are associated with the Ultra product which is hosted and not used by ECU OR modules not adopted by ECU such as Blackboard Analytics)
   a. The meeting was held for two days on campus offering 90 slots for attendance. Attendance was strong for the meeting.
   b. New learning experience being offered through a learner focused student center that offers enhanced mobile apps, integrated technology including webcasting and an offering of the app to students currently with a roll out for the faculty app in late summer or early fall. This Blackboard is optimized for use on student’s phones.
   c. Ultra Interface (not used by ECU) will offer a new theme for BB for availability in the summer giving current existing courses a new look which adds a more responsive design than today’s BB with its use available on a variety of devices.
   d. Blackboard Analytics package (not adopted yet) allows tracking to improve performance of students in both online and offline courses through allowing shared information from the LMS for a variety of university users. The purchase package includes Blackboard Collaborate as a web-conferencing tool allowing the adding of files, sharing applications and a whiteboard. ITCS will compare some of the features with WebX and Collaborate and share back with the group. WebX can be offered with a plug-in with Blackboard and plans are to test this summer.
   e. Certain items, such as lock-down browser or publishing building blocks will not work with the new Blackboard hosted application Ultra.

3. IRRC and IT Accessibility Report – Wendy Creasey
   a. Improvement over prior choices for network connections such as Bucanner and Pirate network. These will be replaced with one ECU Connect method. It features identification of faculty vs. students who are accessing the connection. Students will be connected to a different network connection since the student access sometimes involves devices that are not required to have Windows updates and Virus updates. Whereas computers of faculty members are postured for automatic windows & virus updates allowing their log-on to direct access to a different location for security concerns. Visitors will be sponsored for access with special sign on features for accessing the wireless network.
b. Wendy Creasey and many others have been working with Liz Johnson to improve the ADA compliance issues given the increased lawsuits in the education arena. An IT accessibility committee will be creating a regulation for the institution and considering the recent lawsuits to identify and improve our sites and to identify non-compliant areas. We need to educate campus on ADA compliance with pdfs that do not allow interpretation by screen readers. Also, youtube captioning is only about fifty percent accurate unless edited so these will not be considered ADA compliant. A policy is being developed with a cross campus committee and input from Phillip White, the IT Accessibility Consultant, which will be drafted in early summer with review throughout the summer and likely presented in the fall.

4. Old Business
   a. Blackboard Guidelines
      i. In considering the Blackboard guidelines, concerns were raised that a Chair accessing a faculty member’s Blackboard course cannot use such access to investigate misconduct in the course. Under the policy, the Department Chair only has the right to enter an online course after notifying the professor they are doing so due to a student compliant under the guidelines. From this discussion the question was presented to the committee as to whether there should be a definition of what constitutes “misconduct”. After discussion among the committee, on a motion offered by Lida Cope as seconded by Carmine Scavo, the committee unanimously agreed that this guideline was not the fitting location for a universal definition of faculty “misconduct”.

ii.  

5. Annual Report
   a. Timm Hackett will be finalizing the Annual Report and submitting it to the Committee.

The Committee adjourned at 5:00 pm as the last meeting of the 2015-2016 academic year.

Submitted

Rose L. Bailey
DELTC Secretary