

Technology Steering Committee
Thursday, September 14, 2017
3:30 STC Board Room (201)

Present: Chad Baver, Susan Briggs, Amanda Buckley, Kevin Engellant, Liane Forrester, Verna Hand, Anne Kish, Adam Mastandrea, Anneliese Ripley, Tyler Seacrest

Guest: Janelle Handlos

Absent: Saul Mastandrea, Deborah Hedeem

(No students have been assigned to this committee. Chad is waiting for this to happen)

1.) GraphPad Prism statistical analysis and graphing software-Request-Janelle Handlos

Janelle presented a request for GraphPad for the HHP Lab. This would provide a site license for 2 computers: a lab computer and Dr. Young's office computer. There is a \$290 annual subscription that would cover upgrades and support. This fee would be paid by the Health and Human Performance Department. Chad stated that there would not be much overhead for the IT department in regard to this request. There are two connections in the house (the office and wireless) and the metabolic cart has its own connection. This software would allow for more presentations, including symposiums and regional presentations, and the publication work being done would look more professional and "awesome". Janelle mentioned that "the firefighters" were coming to the lab tonight, and that would start to create data.

Discussion on the request was held. Liane moved to approve the purchase. Verna seconded and the vote was unanimous to approve the purchase. Chad will notify Janelle tomorrow.

2.) SmartSheets work management software-Request-Amanda Buckley

Amanda began her request with an explanation that the AAC committee was researching a way to implement a Strategic Planning Program where all information could be kept in one area. Each department would be able to list their top priority programs and the cost associated with them. When the Budget Committee meets, they would be able to review all pending projects and proposals from this one area. There are no requirements for this software except for the fees of \$400 per year (\$25 monthly) for an unlimited number of people. This fee would be paid from Academics. Chad questioned how users are managed. Does there need to be an administrator? How will data be entered? There would be at least one person from each department entered as a user to enter data from that department.

Discussion was held. It was mentioned that SharePoint is a part of Office 365 so SharePoint is paid for. Chad explained that SharePoint does basically the same thing as

SmartSheets. It has lots of flexibility, but a higher learning curve. SmartSheets is easy to use, easy to share, easy to learn, but not as flexible. It is very easy to attach documents in SmartSheets. SharePoint keeps documents separate, even though they can be attached. In Chad's opinion, SmartSheets is a nicer package in regards to the user interface.

After the information about SharePoint was discussed, it was decided that Amanda will revisit this request with AAC after creating some of the things that were done on SmartSheets in SharePoint for comparison.

3.) Rise Vision digital signage content management-Update-Chad Bayer

The committee was updated on the Rise Vision digital signage. In June, Mike Piazzola and Amanda Burgstrom came to Chad with a request of hardware/software to display signage. Because of the timing of their request and the committee not meeting during the summer, Chad suggested they do this on a trial basis. This was paid for with the Residence Life budget, and consisted of two pre-installed Intel boxes running the Windows OS at \$609 per device. There is an annual subscription fee of \$120 for cloud storage, support and training. (Chad will follow up on this. IT would want this annual fee to be paid so that support and training are provided and does not fall back to IT) IT is recommending Samsung Smart TVs to use with this application because they do hold up better in IT's experience. Rise Vision could be shared across campus because everything is stored in the cloud. Mike Piazzola has reported to IT that Rise Vision is working as prescribed, and that Amanda Burgstrom will help if it needs to be pushed out to other parts of campus. Chad asked for a vote to ok recommending Rise Vision to other departments who would like this technology. The motion to approve was made by Amanda Buckley, seconded by Liane, and was approved unanimously.

Charge of Committee-Anneliese

After the above discussions, clarification on the Charge of the Committee was requested.

- a.) Anything centrally funded needs to go through this committee;
- b.) "Somewhere, someone needs to know what is being added to make sure "it" does not compromise anything".
- c.) CIO needs to know what people are buying to make sure it works and can be supported and that IT can track the University property as required by the State.

4.) Regroup mass notification-Update-Chad

The Foundation wanted a texting platform. The committee asked the Foundation to use Regroup mass notification in a trial basis. Foundation reported to Chad that the software will meet their needs. Therefore, it seems feasible to allow other departments the use of regroup to communicate with students via text messaging. It is part of the multi-campus cost sharing with UM. It can be set up for other groups to mass notify. Liane was very interested in using this as a means to contact students, especially those who owe money. The text comes from a computer, "Do you want to be a part of this...." so people can respond. Regroup will be brought to the AAC committee for consideration of campus wide use.

3.) Grammarly proofreading and plagiarism-detection resource-Discussion-Adam Mastandrea

Adam presented a proposal from the Education Department in regard to instruction in writing, and discussion was held. Grammarly is an adaptive writing program with plagiarism detection. It would cost \$3,750 per year for 1500 students. Students would have unlimited access, as would instructors. What is driving this? Writing assessments? Comments were:

- a.) This makes the students' writing look better, but doesn't teach them how to write.
- b.) There papers written with help from this program look good, but when they get to the real world and a job, they don't know how to write.
- c.) Plagiarism is better detected by how well instructors know their students. Sometimes, these programs give a false analysis flagging some writing as plagiarism when it is not and not flagging some plagiarism, but recognizing it as original work. Knowing your students seems to be a better way to detect plagiarism. If a student who has written poor papers suddenly writes a perfect paper, it would be a flag.

Amanda mentioned there is a Moodle plug in program, Turn It In, which focuses on plagiarism. Grammarly's focus is spell check and grammar check, and plagiarism detection is an add-on. Susan suggested that three departments (English, Education, and the Learning Center) need to sit down and talk about this issue. The discussion ended with the agreement that Adam will take this information back to the Ed Dept. and that these three groups need to meet and discuss what they need.

Meeting adjourned @ 4:30

Technology Steering Committee
Thursday, October 12, 2017
3:30 STC Board Room (201)

Present: Chad Baver, Kevin Engellant, Liane Forrester, Verna Hand, Anne Kish, Adam Mastandrea, Saul Mastandrea, Anneliese Ripley, Tyler Seacrest

Guest: Vikki Howard

Absent: Susan Briggs, Deborah Hedeem

(No students have been assigned to this committee. Chad is waiting for this to happen)

1.) Smartsheet/SharePoint Clarification-Chad

Chad clarified that the discussion of Smartsheet had been tabled at the last Technology Steering Committee meeting, in part because of the resignation of Amanda Buckley as Director of E-Learning. Deb and Amanda had been reviewing Smartsheet as a way to track strategic planning. Chad will create a mock-up of SharePoint for the Provost to test to determine if SharePoint will cover the Strategic Planning and Programming needs since it is already being paid for as a part of Office 365. This will allow Smartsheet, as an item before the committee, to keep moving forward. Discussion was held on concerns of adding a new program to the system: Overhead; cost of learning multiple platforms; would this be available to one small group or everyone?

2.) Discussion of purpose of Technology Steering Committee-Committee Members

Some members of the committee brought up concerns that the recommendations of the committee are being challenged, and wonder what the purpose of the committee is if their recommendations can be over-ridden. Consensus is that the purpose of the committee is to “head off an unintended plethora” of programs when we are not using the tools that we have to their potential. “How many systems do we need when we are not using all of the systems that we already have? We have tools, but no resources to get everything out of the tools that we have.” Concerns were voiced that IT does not have personnel to do training, and that training, maintenance, and upkeep are the true cost of any program.

3.) Request from Math Department-Tyler

Tyler, as a representative from the Math Department, requested the purchase of a program that would project the TI84 calculator that the Math Department uses as a “big” one so that students can be shown how to operate their calculators. (The department has determined that cell phone calculators are not appropriate for exams.) This would be paid for with the Math Department budget. They would like to purchase 5 licenses at \$68 per license (a one-time fee). There would be no training needed. The software is local, not cloud-based. The Math Department might ask for installation on smart board computers and lap tops. They would like to have the purchase made and

installed by Block 4. The committee felt that there would be no problem with this request. The proper request form must be submitted at the next meeting on November 9th for formal approval.

4.) **Grammarly proofreading and plagiarism-detection resource-Request**

Adam took the discussion on Grammarly back to the faculty to discuss as was decided in the last TSC meeting. Faculty appeared to be offended so the issue was turned over to Vikki Howard and Provost Hedeem. More discussion was held within the committee on the Grammarly program. The free program checks grammar and spelling. The “pay for” version detects plagiarism as well. The comment was made that students upload their documents and Grammarly “re-writes” it for them. Concerns were that this will encroach on the English Department, and students will graduate being unable to write in an acceptable manner because the program is enhancing their writing skills. Committee members felt that the educational administration needs to give more input. After considerable discussion, it was agreed that if IT approves a program and the department has the money, it is not up to the Technology Steering Committee to make a judgement call. The Provost would make the judgement call by signing off on the request. There can be no vote without the required signatures on the request form.

Vikki Howard arrived to give an informational presentation on the Grammarly program and the request for it by the Education Department. 82% of incoming freshman to The University of Montana Western are TRIO eligible. Even though students are required to take one writing class, and even though they pass the class, they are not able to write well and are writing deficient. Grammarly does not auto correct. It points out errors to the students, and the students need to make choices to make corrections. Therefore, the students are learning. Vikki said that her research shows that with the use of Grammarly, 99% of students’ grades improve, and 76% of students enjoyed writing after using Grammarly. Instructors on campus could use this to monitor plagiarism. Grammarly would be available to everyone on the faculty. Instructors would decide whether or not to use the program. Email addresses or access codes can be used to build accounts. Students would be given an access code and would register themselves. Possibly, e-Learning would be in charge of support. At this time, there is not a firm roll-out plan in place. Cost to purchase the program is \$3,750 per year for 1500 members. Vikki was unsure where the money to fund this would come from, but thought it would come from the Technology Fund. She pointed out that this would be less than \$3 per student.

Discussion was held after Vikki’s presentation and departure. Without a roll out plan, programs “just sit”. There needs to be someone to do a push out. Again, strong concern was voiced that the English Department is not “side by side” in this

conversation when they are the primary academic department tasked with teaching writing and composition. Perhaps, Deb should send this to Faculty Senate because more than one department is involved. There are concerns about this program's impact on other departments. There is concern about funding. (This would be a one year contract which could then be re-evaluated.) And, there is concern about the roll-out, training, and technical support for the program. Vikki did not have request with signatures, although she did state that Deb has signed off on the request.

It was decided to vote on this request with the voting result pending on the stipulation that Chad will take it to the Provost and Vice Chancellor to make sure that the request is signed, that there is roll out plan in place, and to determine where funding is coming from.

Anneliese moved to approve the request as there is "no problem with the use of the technology, however the committee does have concerns for cost and for other academic departments and their buy ins as this request is asking for a campus-wide roll out." Anne seconded the motion. The vote was approved by the majority with one member abstaining. Chad will take the concerns of the committee and the result of the vote to the Provost and Vice Chancellor before giving Vikki a final answer. He will report back at our next meeting.

Meeting adjourned @4:30

Technology Steering Committee
Thursday, November 9, 2017
3:30 STC Board Room (201)

Present: Chad Baver, Kevin Engellant, Deb Hedeem, Anne Kish, Adam Mastandrea, Saul Mastandrea, Andrea Schurg, Tyler Seacrest

Absent: Susan Briggs, Anneliese Ripley, Liane Forrester, Verna Hand

(No students have been assigned to this committee. Chad is waiting for this to happen)

4.) TI SmartView CE Emulator Software for the TI-84 Plus Calculator-Request-Chad

Tyler Seacrest from the Math Department made one correction to the request; that the funds to purchase this software be taken from the equipment budget rather than the Math Department budget. The cost of the software is \$340. Tyler gave a brief description of the software and its function for committee members who were absent at the last meeting. The software would be installed on certain smartboards and podium machines for the classrooms. Eric Wright would like the software installed on his personal (UMW) laptop. The Math Department would like to have the software installed and ready to use by Block 4. With the software purchase, five installs would be allowed, so primarily, it could be used in four different rooms. The Math Department is responsible for contacting Bill Dwyer to inform him of the four classrooms the software needs to be installed in. Chad will contact Alecia in the Registrar's office to let them know that the software will only be available in certain rooms once it has been installed. A motion to approve was made by Deb with Saul to second. This item passed unanimously. Tyler was notified of the approval. Deb suggested that because of the time frame to get the software purchased and installed to be used by Block 4, the purchase be made with a Pro Card.

5.) Smartsheets/Sharepoint work management software-Update-Chad

The mock up for Sharepoint has been done. Deb will experiment with it until spring semester. If it works, and since we already have it, there will be no need to buy Smartsheets.

6.) Grammarly proofreading and plagiarism-detection resource-Update-Chad

Deb will talk to department heads and Nicole, because this is not a department only request. It would be available to be used campus wide. She said "we will do our homework and take our time to research because this is not urgent".

Saul said that he has been using the Grammarly program for the last month. He was asked for his input which follow:

- If you are writing and Grammarly detects an error, it underlines in red. One click shows the problem, and two clicks automatically corrects it.

- The program is data mining and saving to their server. It is exposing everything that we do to the company.
- It could teach if the student takes the time to invest in their education. If not, double clicking will correct the errors.
- The program can make mistakes, so faculty could see if the student is using it to learn because, sometimes, the correction is in error.
- Grammarly is better than Word because it is smarter than Word.

Questions raised were:

- Should all faculty use or should the faculty have the option?
- Will this cause divisiveness between departments?

The consensus, as summarized by Deb, is that faculty needs to try Grammarly during the trial period, and that it is just one reason to bring the discussion to department heads. A bigger discussion is needed because this is an across-campus issue, not an issue that affects only one department.

Meeting was adjourned