2022-2023 Annual Council Committee Report

Committee: Academic Technology Advisory Committee (ATAC)

Prepared by: Vincent Bohlinger

Date: 5 May 2023

Include the following information in your annual report:

1. Members of the committee (including name of the chair)

   Kieran Ayton (Secretary), Wendy Becker, Vince Bohlinger (Chair), Erin Brown (after bylaws change), Pam Christman, Jeannine Dingus-Eason (until late 2022, replaced due to non-attendance/communication), Justin Feeney, Kyle Jackson, Chris Marco, Carrie Miller (late 2022 on), Soumyadeep Mukherjee, Anabela Resende de Maia (late 2022 on, Provost's appointee replacing J. Dingus-Eason), Kemal Saatcioglu, Penni Sadlon, Andrew Sandlin (replaced in late 2022 when C. Miller was hired by RIC), Henk Sonder, Juan Soriano (undergrad member), David Toms, Bin Yu

2. Meeting dates

   Friday, September 16, 2022
   Monday, September 19, 2022 (LMS subcommittee)
   Friday, September 30, 2022
   Friday, October 14, 2022
   Friday, October 21, 2022 (faculty-wide Blackboard Ultra Demo)
   Friday, November 4, 2022 (faculty-wide Canvas Demo)
   Monday, November 21, 2022
   Friday, December 2, 2022 (faculty-wide Brightspace Demo)
   Monday, December 5, 2022
   Thursday, December 8, 2022
   Friday, December 9, 2022 (faculty-wide LMS Demo comparisons)
   Friday, February 10, 2023

3. Summary of committee activities (Please also include relevant minutes in an attachment)

   The vast majority of the committee's work this academic year involved the LMS recommendation to College Council. We circulated the results of the LMS survey that was distributed to students and faculty in Spring 2022 and was processed and compiled by Chris Marco last summer. We also distributed the focus group results from Val Endress's COMM 461 course. Based on these results we created an extended rubric to help inform the recommendation process that we also circulated. After the three demo sessions and an additional session that compared the three systems and answered faculty questions raised at the earlier sessions, we also administered a simple poll to full-time and adjunct faculty. There was overwhelming faculty support for upgrading our current LMS to Blackboard Ultra instead of soliciting an RFP for a potentially new LMS (poll results: 68.4% in favor of upgrading, 22% in favor of an RFP, 9.6% unsure).

ATAC currently has begun the process of working with MIS to make certain aspects of PeopleSoft/MyRIC more user friendly for faculty based on feedback solicited by Kemal Saatcioglu last spring. This work will likely carry through the summer into the upcoming fall semester.

In recent years, ATAC has considered creating some type of policy/restriction related to DVD copying/ripping. User Support Services ripped 34 DVDs in 2020, 37 DVDs in 2021, 15 DVDs in 2022, and 11 DVDs in 2023. At most other academic institutions in the United States, DVD copying/ripping for the purpose of student/instructor access of content via an online platform is done by library staff, not by the likes of User Support Services (because it is seen as the equivalent of course reserves). ATAC may wish to address this issue in the future, particularly if there is a considerable uptick in requests for DVD copying/ripping.

The Chair of ATAC serves on the newly formed Ad Hoc Faculty and Student Web Advisory Committee (and will be co-chairing the committee).

Meeting minutes can be found [here](#).

4. Decisions approved and actions taken (including proposals approved by Council)

The bylaws of ATAC were revised to update its language and include a seat for a representative from Disability Services. These bylaws changes were approved by Council.

ATAC recommended upgrading our LMS to Blackboard Ultra over an RFP to potentially change our LMS. This recommendation was adopted by College Council.

5. Recommendations for next year's committee

Finding undergraduate and graduate student representation remains a significant challenge.

Note to the Committee on Committees: the bylaws for ATAC call for the VPAA's designee to the committee to be a faculty member. (This year's designee initially was a dean.) This language/distinction for a 'faculty designee' may be unique among the bylaws for College Council committees.

6. Self-evaluation

The chair of the committee must confess to burning out after all the work on LMS in the fall and early weeks of the spring semester, so addressing the list of PeopleSoft/MyRIC issues has not been as timely as it should have been.

Please submit your report to Valerie Endress (vendress@ric.edu) by April 25, 2023.