Faculty Senate Information Technology Committee
December 11, 2009

Attendance:
Members: Nigel Ward, Chair, Carolyn Alwalt, Robert Wren, Darla Smith, Karl Putnam, Brian Giza.
Ex-Officio: Mary Duffy, Lisa Weber

1. Minutes. The minutes from the last meeting were approved.

2. Blackboard Survey.
There were 16 responses (14 faculty/2 lecturers). Brian will wait a bit longer before closing the survey; it would be better if there were a few more responses.

Preliminary results show some trends:
Not very negative towards IT support for Blackboard; size of attachments is limited (for student attachments); 13 respondents had used it before; all were previous WebCT users; 10 had used UT Distance End version of Blackboard; 2 knew about the FIT Lab;11 had used online tutorials.

A comparison with WebCT 2009 showed:
        5 -The current version is better than previous system
        3 - Just about as good as the previous system
        8 - Current version is not as good
        16 –total responses

CourseMine:
        5 respondents had used coursemine
        2 used it to post their syllabus and to read complaints.

Types of problems identified are anecdotal:
        4 connection problems from UTEP
        4 connection problems off UTEP
        8 Files uploads didn't work
        7 Email attachments didn't work
        6 File size (of attachments) is too small
        9 Harder to use.
        16 Different browsers produce different results
        4 Doesn't work with Firefox
        2 Doesn't work with IE
        5 Attachments disappeared.

There has been no response from FIT/ISS.
Other general complaints included:
        Terrible system

      Clunky
      UT Universe is better
      Setting up groups is awful
      Students have trouble attaching/uploading files

Support Issues:
      7 College of Education had poor support
      1 College of Education support was excellent
      3 Univ/Campus wide support poor
      4 Univ/Campus wide support excellent
      7 Univ/Campus wide support adequate

Significant trends –
      a. Poor support in College of Ed
      b. Interface issues
      c. Upload issues

Some possible solutions:
    a. Do training in College of Ed
    b. Upload problem should go to Sunay in ISS: (JAVA) must load individually or it won't work.
Question: How long is the contract with Blackboard for?

Action Item: Collect more responses; Share with Sunay.

3. Computer literacy and how to achieve computer literacy.
      a. High school standards
      b. Project 261 (advancement of science)
      c. 21st Century Skills
There is an instrument for testing competency levels that cost approx $400 per student.
ISTE changed from specific tasks to higher level (critical thinking skills) standards.

Action Item: Brian Giza will send the committee the information on ISTE.
      Look at results of 8 years of tech surveys done by the College of Ed faculty.
Oversold and over used is a book that describes the situation, i.e. faculty are using technology for their research but not using it for their classes.

Question: What should faculty know regarding Information Literacy?

In January 2010 we should review the standards with a eye to assessing possible standards for UTEP.

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Nodes of creative use: Who is building courses in Second Life; Flash; IPhone apps?

Kinesiology introduces applications in sophomore classes so they will be able to use them later in their upper level courses.

It was suggested that application proficiency be put as a class requirement.
We need to create a list of required proficiencies.

Atomic learning: list of tutorials on software applications
(YouTube also has tutorials)

Dr. Natalicio wants to know what computer literacy is or should be.

It was suggested that students from communications be hired to teach high end software (multimedia). Also, find links for up to date, useful, self help resources (tutorials).

Flip video – converting format into windows is possible (FIT Lab know how). You must download a converter (not part of windows).

Action Item:
      -Study survey data to figure out what UTEP needs.
      -minimum competencies (other colleges and/or societies) (Nigel)

4. Next meeting. The next meeting will be held on January 15th, at 11:10 AM in the Library, room 325.

5. Adjourned: The meeting was adjourned at 12:00 PM.