Minutes, Technology Committee

Fall, 2014

Present: Cam McLeman (chair), Richard Richardson, Seyed Mehidian, Jeffrey Kupperman, Hillary Heinze, Irwyn Sadien (student representative), Elena Greer (student representative), Scott Arnst (ex officio)

All votes are unanimous (excluding absentees or abstaining votes) unless otherwise noted.

Business

1. Matters: The committee elects Cam McLeman as committee chair and delegate to the technology fee committee. Elena Greer replaces Ryan Weir as student representative to the technology committee.

2. Curriculog: The committee is asked to review the software proposal Curriculog, expanding the current Acalog system, and to consider its deployment. The committee settles on the following language:

   The technology committee feels that the proposed addition of curriculog would be a wholly beneficial complement to our existing software palette. In particular, this would be a welcome boon to the various curriculum committees, who currently often have to take the initiative to determine the effect of curricular changes on other courses and programs. It appears that curriculog would elegantly facilitate this process, rather than relying on guesswork and intercampus mail. It also seems likely that the benefits will extend well beyond the curriculum committees and department chairs, however, with the potential to reach in to other areas of course management (e.g., oversight of graduate thesis requests, special programs, etc.) Of course, the full scope of its potential applications will only become most clear after more intensive training/documentation is made available.

On that note, Faculty Council has also asked us to consider implementation and roll-out methods. Subject to the technological feasibility of this idea’s implementation, we propose that ITS use a roll-out protocol similar to that employed when introduction the Drupal CMS across the University. Namely, we propose that departments and/or committees be responsible for designating a small number of their users (e.g., the department’s chair or his/her delegate, relevant administrative assistants, and curriculum committee members) to be in charge of interfacing with curriculog while the software is in its on-campus infancy. Training these small number of users would proceed via open training sessions, whose completion is mandatory before accessing the system. These users could then, in the short-term, function as each department/committee’s access point to this system. This approach allows the campus as a whole to gain some institutional curriculog familiarity, distributed amongst many departments, before the University forces a hard roll-out to replace existing systems. Of course, technical decisions abound as to which systems should become enabled or disabled at what times, and we defer to ITS as to choosing the best way to do this, again using the Drupal roll-out as a template.
3. Banner/DegreeWorks: By request of Senior Vice Provost Vahid Lofti, the committee sends delegates (Cam McLeman and Richard Richardson) to a presentation from Ellucian on DegreeWorks, a proposed software addition replacing the existing Banner CAPP module. The committee approves going forward with the replacement.

4. LAN Passwords: The committee hears a proposal from ITS to address some issues with password security. The new proposal would have passwords of 15 characters or longer with a minimum enforced setting of 11 characters. Adopting this would allow the reduction of the interval for required password changes should be lengthened from the current 3 months to once per year. In addition, the new protocol will allow a larger number of incorrect password entries before locking out the account, alleviating the strain on ITS staff in handling these occurrences. The proposal also includes the rollout of a password auditing system. The committee discusses various aspects of the proposal and then approves it.