Learning with Technology Committee
Meeting Minutes
Friday, March 27, 2009
TETC 213 F

Members in Attendance: Sam Geleta (Henson School, Committee Chair), Krista Knapp (Library), Dorothea McDowell (at-large), Fati Salimian (Perdue School), Claire Kew (Fulton School) Melissa Thomas (TLR), Jerry Waldron (CIO)
Absent: Doug DeWitt (Seidel School, Designated Senator), Stephen Ford (at-large)

The focus of the meeting was to make a decision as to what recommendation the committee would like to take forward to the Faculty Senate on April 7 concerning web based course evaluation software.

Melissa had previously distributed via email some criteria that could be used to evaluate or to develop course evaluation software.

The discussion centered on the three software packages that were reviewed with a fourth option of developing our own product in house. If the product were developed in house several issues were discussed

1. How long the development cycle would be. Appears that it would take at least a year to get a product that could be used at first by a limited number of departments and then the number increased. A pilot could be done with a limited number to work out any bugs.
2. The inhouse product could be fully integrated with People Soft, which would be an advantage of developing in house
3. A development team would need to be formed, which includes IT, faculty, staff, and institutional research. Recently a product was developed on campus for housing and a similar approach was taken for development. This project is winding down, which may mean the developers on campus will have time to work on a new project.
4. College Park uses Sakai, but J. Waldron prefers not to use this so that our product would be fully integrable with People Tools.
5. A concern, regardless of whether we purchase a product or develop in house is who will be the Administrator of the software. Seems it most likely would be administered by the Provost office since it is related to 1. Academic outcomes, 2. Course evaluations/academics and 3. Institutional research.

Discussion of the three products that were reviewed

1. Pricing
   a. Blackboard-most expensive=$50,000/yr plus initial setup
   b. CollegeNet-$38,000 setup plus $20,000/yr
   c. CourEval $12,000 setup plus $9600/yr
2. Other considerations/discussion
   a. Blackboard is so expensive, probably cannot consider. However, it is the only product that has ability to match outcomes to courses
   b. CollegeNet-no other contracts in the State of MD. Seemed fairly rigid in what was available with this product (survey view, for example)
c. CoursEval—Currently at Frostburg, and St. Mary’s. SU has experience with this product.

Suggestions
1. Go with a product for a few years, then develop our own inhouse product when we might know better what we want.
2. The problem of low return rates was mentioned. However, this would be a problem whether the product is developed here or purchased. The feeling was that the culture in some departments would need to change in order to get a better return rate. Faculty need to encourage students to complete. SGA may be able to get involved in the process of improving return rates.
3. Currently departments at SU are doing Online course evaluations in two different manners
   a. CourEval—Perdue School, Nursing dept
   b. MyClasses (which has a bug in reporting)—CMAT, RESP, MDTC, SOWK
   c. Others interested in online course evaluations—PSYC, BIOL

Conclusion
Motion made to keep CoursEval available, but to meet with Administrative Systems Developers to consider the possibility of developing our own product. This motion was passed unanimously. A meeting was scheduled for Tuesday, March 30 to bring together current CoursEval users, developers and TLR. It was mentioned that since some departments had previously used CoursEval and stopped, it would be good talk to those departments to see if there was additional information we needed.

The committee will report to the Faculty Senate on April 7, 2009. The report will include the results of the meeting on March 30.

Next Meeting planned for April 17 at 1:30.

Submitted by Thea McDowell