Wright State University

[CORE Scholar](#)

3-4-2011

Information Technology Committee Meeting Minutes, March 4, 2011

Information Technology Committee

IT Committee Minutes
March 4, 2011 at 1:00 in 248 Rike Hall

Present: Barbara Denison, RSCoB; Rebecca Teed, COSM; Roger Carlsen (for Maggie Veres),
CEHS; Sherrill Smith, CONH; Nancy Garner, History; Kathi Herick, Library; Paul Hernandez,
Larry Fox, Scott Rife, CaTS; Dan DeStephen, CTL, Marian Hogue, Registrar; Galen Crawford,
Costa Alimonos, Student Government

I.   Web Accessibility

The Senate Executive Committee requested that the IT Committee look into a report in the
Chronicle of Higher Education. The first link addresses accessibility to technology by sight
impaired students on college campuses. The second link specifically ranks multiple institutions
of higher education, in which Wright State University is ranked quite low, in Best and Worst
Colleges for Blind Students.

http://chronicle.com/article/Blind-Students-Demand-Access/125695/

http://chronicle.com/article/BestWorst-College-Web/125642/

Information Technology is requested to respond to the articles and investigate if Wright State is
lacking in accessibility through technology and how Wright State can better serve our sight
impaired students through improved access.

Jeff Vernooy, Office of Disability Services, had planned to attend our meeting but was unable.
We will invite him to meet with us early spring quarter. It was also recommended that George
Heddleston of Communications and Marketing be invited.

The second article was based on study results that looked at the public websites of universities
and also the College of Liberal Arts. Scott Rife briefed us on some CaTS findings. CaTS
maintains the Portal and the Self-Service. Communications and Marketing maintains wright.edu.
Scott consulted with Jerry Hensley of CaTS who has expertise in this area. Wings tested OK
with Jaws, the screen reader. Wings Express is accessible. Communications Express is not
accessible but the calendar feature is not used much by students.

Dan DeStephen reported that desire2Learn is quite accessible and a big improvement over
WebCT.

Wright.edu has many iframes and is managed loosely. In addition, faculty are responsible for
their own content. Wright.edu has a text only link to reach a text version of the website that
screen readers could easily interpret. Usablenet software is used to convert the site to web only.
Scott and Communications and Marketing speculated that the testers used by the study author did
not utilize the text only option.

The wright.edu website will be migrated to the content management system, Drupal. Mark
Anderson has joined Communications and Marketing to be the new web lead. Accessibility
rules can be set up with Drupal to check the content being uploaded by users. The migration to
Drupal will probably take two to three years.

After discussion, the committee will invite George Heddleston and Mark Anderson to our next meeting. The committee also recommends that the Text-only link be more prominent on wright.edu. The IT Committee recommends that Communications and Marketing should do an inquiry into how the study was performed and reply on behalf of Wright State.

The first article explained accessibility problems with Kindle readers. CTL does not recommend Kindles for that reason.

II.   Learning Management Systems

Galen Crawford, Student Government Senator, distributed a resolution passed by Student Government. Student Government has requested that the Faculty Senate support a resolution that the university move to one course management system (CMS), rather than utilizing multiple systems. Students feel that it is confusing to have to manage multiple systems when retrieving course materials or submitting assignments. EC would like for the IT Committee to investigate these issues and provide guidance or solutions.

The committee discussed a number of the issues of multiple learning management systems (LMS). Currently the university is supporting WebCT, Pilot, and Course Studio. In winter quarter, students and faculty saw their courses visible in both systems whether being utilized or not. Spring quarter, WebCT will not be available. Faculty have control over when and if to release the Pilot classes. Syllabi should specify where course materials are being stored.

There was also a discussion that students want to access syllabi in advance of the Pilot course being opened to get information to order books online or just research the course. Marian Hogue asked about a syllabus archive. Student Government had worked on one in the past but it was labor intensive and CaTS said that a secure archive would be needed to undertake this project.

CaTS reported that CaTS could turn Course Studio off. It was also reported that the incremental effort to support Course Studio is negligible since it is integrated with Banner. Before any kind of recommendation could be made on the use of Course Studio, extensive faculty input would be needed. Scott Rife reported the following the Fall and Winter 2010 statistics on the usage of Course Studio.

Fall 2010 Stats	Winter 2011 Stats
Unique Students: 19098 Unique Instructors: 1276	Unique Students: 17955 Unique Instructors: 1214
courses with files attached: 794 # of files uploaded: 20213	courses with files attached: 678 # of files uploaded: 16367
courses with photos attached: 72 # of photos uploaded: 422	courses with photos attached: 43 # of photos uploaded: 419
Courses with links added: 186	Courses with links added: 173

# of links added: 1259	# of links added: 907
Courses with news items added: 16 # of news items added: 103	Courses with news items added: 7 # of news items added: 163

In addition to the usage above, faculty make use of the ability to email their class with Course Studio. Since Pilot emails are not forwarded to the campus emails, Course Studio is the best alternative to email a class. There was not a recommendation to discontinue use of Course Studio.

There is effort to make Pilot a first place to check for course information. Kathi Herrick reported that the Library is working with CTL to make Electronic Course Reserves an easy to use part of Pilot since faculty also use ECR as a repository. Elluminate is now integrated with Pilot both for setting up class meetings and for students to attend.

Dan DeStephen reported a relatively new issue is that book publishers are selling their own sites as LMS. They are encouraging faculty to use the publisher website for course material repository, test taking, and assignment submissions. Pilot does have widgets to insert in a course to link to the publisher's LMS if it is being used by the faculty member.

Faculty may also be using their personal website as a repository. Roger Carlsen reported that he uses Moodle, the open source CMS or LMS since the K through 12 community uses it extensively and his graduating teachers will be using it.

Galen was asked about student feedback in support of the Senate Resolution. He reported that 3000 students had been surveyed through the list serv. CaTS offered to work with Student Government if they wanted to post some questions on the Wings polling platform.

The IT Committee will follow up next quarter for feedback once WebCT is discontinued.

III.   CaTS Update

Paul Hernandez reported that contrary to rumors, the TV Center is not closing. In light of the budget pressures, there is a study of the Media Production Center to analyze all functions, usage and cost. It is likely that the TV broadcast in the classroom will be discontinued. This is not the campus RF system.

IV.   Center for Teaching and Learning

Dan DeStephen requested that the committee continue discussion of the draft guidelines for online classes during university closures. A brief discussion was held. It will be difficult for faculty to require accessing online materials during the scheduled class time while the university announcement includes "All classes are cancelled." The committee discussed other possible wording but agreed that long caveats would not translate well to the TV crawl announcements.

V.   Registrar

Marian Hogue reported that there have been challenges exporting grades from Pilot to Banner. The issue is with P/F grading and making sure that the grading standard is adhered to. CTL, CaTS, and the Registrar are working on this. If it is not resolved in the next week, faculty may need to enter quarter grades in Banner. CTL may be able to help with large classes. In WebCT, the export of the gradebook worked well. Part of the Pilot issue is the use of percentages rather than letter grades.

Marian also report that the change of grade workflow is successfully in production.

VI.   Next Meeting

Barbara Denison will survey the committee for spring quarter teaching schedules before scheduling the next meeting.