
ACADEMIC AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY COUNCIL

Minutes of 15 May 2023

Call to Order

The regular meeting of the Western Michigan University Faculty Senate Academic and Information Technology Council was called to order at 9:30 a.m. on 15 May 2023, via Webex by Amy Bocko, chair.

Members in Attendance: Amy Bocko, Timothy Broadwater, Jessica Cataldo, Colin Cork, Brian Carnell, Clifton Ealy, Matthew Fries, Paul Gallagher, Annette Hamel, Andrew Holmes, Pavel Ikononov, Cara Masselink, Geraldine Rinna, Kevin Ting-Yu Mu (substitute for Katie Marshall)

Members Absent: Zoann Snyder, Scott Puckett

Ex Officio: Kieran Fogarty

Quorum

A quorum was present.

Agenda

[MOTION] It was moved by Ikononov, seconded by Cork, to accept the agenda as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

Minutes

[MOTION] It was moved by Ikononov, seconded by Cork, to approve the minutes for the 20 February 2023, 20 March 2023, and 17 April 2023 meetings. The motion carried unanimously.

Reports of Officers

Chair Bocko noted this was her final AITC meeting as chair, and the council would be transitioning leadership.

Ex Officio Fogarty did not provide a report.

Reports of University Representatives

Holmes provided the OIT report as follows:

1. Interviews were held for the Security Privacy Officer position, and an offer was extended.
2. Supply chain issues still hinder classroom technology updates.
3. Campus-wide Adobe agreement renewal negotiations have started.
 - a. OIT is reviewing usage statistics; 85-90% of the campus community uses just Acrobat. Adobe wants to maintain the current contract bundle.
4. DocuSign policies have a large variation across campus. The Office of Information Technology (OIT) is exploring ways to establish a campus-wide standard.
5. The AppsAnywhere project is still progressing toward the expected launch date. Tyler Payne, Network Administrator for the College of Arts and Sciences, will be taking the lead.

Carnell provided the WMUx report as follows:

1. Reviewing and looking at purchasing products to enhance accessibility in Elearning. Elearning quality of life improvements are being explored and will roll out by fall 2023.

Glock reported the following:

1. Navigator network release is well underway. Students' follow-up is underway.
2. The Empowering Futures Gift end-of-year wrap-up will include eight groups in the navigator network.
3. Use analytics will be collected with special attention given to limiting implicit bias.

Unfinished Business

Ex Officio Fogarty solicited for an AITC secretary. No one volunteered. Chair Broadwater and Rinna are in charge of recruiting an AITC secretary during the summer.

New Business

Chair Bocko reviewed accomplishments for 2022-23:

1. Presented AITC accomplishments to the full faculty senate at the April meeting.
 - a. Showcased new technologies on campus.
 - b. Stressed that the biggest strength of AITC is the open lines of communication and collegial environment.
 - c. Passed Memorandum of Action (MOA) on modalities.
 - d. Faculty representation on campus technology initiatives.
 - e. Emerging library technology, Hyflex, Artificial Intelligence (AI) in education.

Ex Officio Fogarty added that the 2023-24 AITC needs to review and prioritize initiatives to accomplish for next year, and the need for clearer communication with faculty concerning AI in education.

AITC 2023-24 chair Broadwater reviewed the following charges:

1. Requested AITC members to provide feedback and next steps for the nine charges for 2023-24.
2. Consensus was reached concerning the creation of a charge on new technologies (Virtual Reality (VR), Augmented Reality (AR), and Machine Learning).
3. Charge 3: Clarify language to further solidify the course development responsibility of the council.
4. Charges 1,3,4,5 as active charges for 2023-24.
5. Charges 6,7,8,9 are standing charges to be reviewed as necessary.

Adjournment

[MOTION] It was moved by Broadwater, seconded by Iknomov, to adjourn the meeting at 10:16 a.m. The motion carried unanimously. The Academic and Information Technology Council will meet next in September, with the date to be determined over the summer.

Approval

Submitted by Colin Cork, Secretary

Minutes approved on 19 September 2023.