

Academic Technology Advisory Committee

November 24, 2015

Burtner, Joshua	McLellan, Amanda
Harrison, Blaine (via phone)	Mobashar, Muneeb (for Jenny Quarles)
Lynch, Bob	Redford, Kim
Lehman, Mary	Smith, Robin
McElfresh, Scott	Yang, Ling

Kim Redford began the meeting at 3:30pm. Ayse Balas, Gretchen Braun, Jeannine Perry and Jenny Quarles were not present.

1. Website Review (final)

- Kim Redford presented the ATAC website, which is now linked from the Help Desk homepage. Committee members were given the opportunity to recommend changes to the site. Blain will work with faculty senate to get the ATAC link on their site. The DEC will include a link to the ATAC site on their webpage.

2. Technology Pilot Form

- Muneeb Mobashar presented the Technology Pilot Request Form. It was approved by the committee and will be added to the ATAC website.

3. Classroom Technology Renovation Proposals

- Two proposals were submitted for consideration: Mary Lehman for Chichester 101 and Blain Harrison for Willett 104C. The committee agreed to review each proposal, ask follow up questions, and choose based on a vote by secret ballot.
- Robin Smith asked about furniture and other resources needed to optimize the new configurations and technology in the spaces. Blain stated that Willett 104C is not widely used by students and that obtaining new furniture is not likely. Dr. Lehman stated that the furniture currently in Chichester 101 is in great condition, attractive, and configurable. The only instructional technology currently in the room is an old computer on wheels (COW). She shared that the room will accommodate approximately 25 students and will be used regularly for a variety of classes if the new technology is added.
- The committee voted. There were 9 votes for Chichester and 1 for Willett. Planning for the Chichester renovations will begin soon.

4. IT Update

- IT will be performing several HDMI conversions over winter break.
- Technology will be replaced in the Hiner 16 lab over winter break.
- ETF funding is now available for this cycle. A number of computers for full time faculty and staff will be refreshed.
- As in years past, Help Desk will provide support via email over winter break. The Help Desk email account will be monitored between the hours of 10 am and 12 noon Monday through Friday with the exception of Christmas Day and New Year's Day. This information will be communicated in an email to campus soon.

5. DEC Update

- Muneeb Mobashar shared that the DEC will provide support over winter break from 10 am – 6 pm Monday – Friday with the exceptions of Christmas Day and New Year's Day.
- Five new Echo boxes will arrive the first week of January. This new hardware will replace existing hardware. The equipment in the Annex in the Dining Hall will be replaced. The DEC is taking requests for locations for the remaining four boxes.
- The DEC has ordered a new Claryicon Onescreen board. The board will be set up and available for faculty evaluation in the DEC. Communication regarding availability and training will be sent.
- Several ITC positions will be opening in the Spring. Suggestions for students who may be a good fit should be forwarded to Becky Patt in the DEC.

Please accept this letter in consideration of choosing Willett Hall Room 104C as the next classroom technology remodel location for User Support Services. This room serves as both a classroom and as the location of the HARK department meetings. Several of the courses taught in this classroom involve hands-on group activities from students in First Aid and CPR courses as well as Athletic Training courses, among others. Upgrading and adding to the technology available in this space will increase the capabilities of the faculty who teach within it. Additionally, with upgraded and expanded capabilities, this room could serve as a location for faculty within our department to hold video conferences as part of faculty searches, it would allow us to host alumni out-reach programs so that successful alumni from our programs could speak to current students, or to host faculty development opportunities by meeting with leaders in our respective fields. Currently, the classroom contains a standard computer workstation and projector; however, the shape of the room and the layout of the furniture may make it difficult for some in the room to see the screen clearly. Adding additional screens throughout the space will enhance the capabilities of the room. Finally, as the host building for next year's Vice-Presidential debate, upgrading the technology in this room could serve to improve the experience of those involved in hosting the event. Thank you for your consideration of Willett Hall Room 104C for a technology remodel.

Best regards,

Blain Harrison

Proposal for Classroom remodel of Chichester 101
Department of Biological and Environmental Sciences
Department of Chemistry and Physics

Current use of this space:

The technology in this room is very limited. Originally, this room was not intended to be a teaching space. Consequently, it was not equipped with an overhead projector and instructor podium like the rest of the teaching spaces in the Chichester Science Center. The only option for projection of electronic materials in that room is an old COW (Computer on Wheels) that we brought with us from the old science building 10 years ago. The COW takes a long time to warm up, the quality of projection is poor, and the COW itself blocks students' view of the screen. This situation makes teaching in this space very undesirable. We attempt to limit scheduling in this room. However, we have an increasing need to utilize this room due to the growth in our programs and the recent addition of a new major in Environmental Sciences. The room is good for breaking out into small groups and courses that focus on that have been scheduled here.

In addition to the COW, this room is home to a Genomics Computer Facility that consists of several computers positioned along one side and back of the room. These computers run on a Linux operating system and are utilized for Bioinformatics and genetic analysis in the BIOL 425 Modern Genetics course. BIOL 425 is the only one of our courses that has been consistently scheduled in Chichester 101. Even with that course, it would be helpful to have an effective way of projecting materials for the whole class to view.

Another current use of Chichester 101 is for storage space. Since the room is oddly shaped, the one back corner does not appear to be usable classroom space, given the current state of technology in the room. Instead, we have been using it to store our large poster display boards and some surplus materials. We have other storage options to move these materials out of Chichester 101 if the room is chosen for the remodel project.

Improving Teaching and Learning in Chichester 101:

Remodeling Chichester 101 would greatly expand the use of this space for teaching and learning. We would like to send the old COW out to pasture and have it replaced by wall mounted projection systems and/or projection boards that are moveable. It would be particularly beneficial to have a touch-screen or other interactive video display. The odd shape of the room may present some challenges, but it also presents opportunities for creative options that may result in a new, unique learning environment on our campus. The remodel could involve re-arrangement of the room and creation of learning "pods" at various areas of the room. The learning "pods" idea would fit particularly well with the new Biology Curriculum that will begin in Fall 2016. The new curriculum will emphasize integration, inquiry, and the development of skills in a student-centered learning environment. Having the ability to engage in group collaboration involving technology would greatly facilitate the learning goals of our new curriculum.

We do not know what is possible, but would like to explore the potential for having one or all of the Linux computers be able to communicate with the projection system for display. We would also like to consider possibilities for allowing students to hook their laptops into the projection system or into a common display screen that would facilitate group work in classes. If this would be possible, we foresee additional uses of the room for research lab groups to meet and work collaboratively.

An improvement in the technology for the room would allow us to regularly schedule classes and meetings in this room. Currently, the room sits empty for the vast majority of each day. Typically, we only schedule classes in there out of desperation. Some semesters, the room is not utilized at all. Updating the technology in the room could turn the situation from “most unwanted” to “highly desirable.” In addition to teaching and lab group work, this room could be very useful as a meeting room for our departments or other departments in the university. Currently, the room is rarely used for meetings due to the technology limitations.

We thank you for considering Chichester 101 for a classroom remodel. This renovation would greatly facilitate teaching and learning in this space and would result in a large increase in the utilization of this room.