

INSTRUCTIONAL TECHNOLOGY STANDING COMMITTEE
Penny Rice, Chair
2008-2009

Membership

- Ms. Buffy Choinski, Associate Professor, Library (term ends August 2011)
- Mr. Kevin Cozart, Staff Assistant, Sarah Isom Center, Staff Council Representative
- Dr. Robert Doerksen, Assistant Professor, Medicinal Chemistry (term ends August 2010)
- Dr. Maurice Eftink, Associate Provost (non-voting)
- Dr. Joseph Gladden, Assistant Professor, Physics and Astronomy (term ends August 2010)
- Ms. Anna Hailey, Undergraduate Student Representative
- Mrs. Gail Herrera, Assistant Dean, Library (term ends August 2012)
- Ms. Jean Hightower, Academic Computing Coordinator, Office of Information Technology (non-voting)
- Ms. Penny Rice, Instructional Technology Specialist, Office of Information Technology (chair) (non-voting)
- Mrs. Debra Riley-Huff, Assistant Professor, Library (term ends August 2012)
- Ms. Debra Scardino, Graduate Student Council Representative
- Ms. Elizabeth Stephan, Assistant Professor, Library (term ends August 2009)
- Mrs. Christina Torbert, Assistant Professor, Library (term ends August 2009)
- Dr. Gregory Tschumper, Associate Professor, Chemistry and Biochemistry (term ends August 2011)

The Instructional Technology Standing Committee provided guidance on a number of important technology projects during the 2008-2009 Academic Year. This report describes these projects and summarizes the involvement of the

committee. Committee minutes are available at the Web address, www.olemiss.edu/ftdc/INSTTECH.html.

Classroom Technology

The Office of the Provost charged the Instructional Technology Standing Committee with the task of identifying candidate classrooms for technology enhancements and overseeing the implementation during Summer 2008.

Due to the Presidential Debate that was hosted at the University in September 2008, around 200 HDTV monitors had to be either purchased or leased for the debate setup. In order to maximize the benefits to the University from hosting the debate, it was decided to purchase around forty high definition TV monitors and to lease the remainder. After the debate, the monitors purchased could then be placed in classrooms as part of this year's Classroom Technology project. These TV monitors are capable of connecting to a computer and can be used in place of an LCD projector in smaller classrooms. It was this committee's responsibility to place these monitors into the classrooms where they were needed the most. The committee conducted a comprehensive analysis that included evaluating a list of all available classrooms on campus, conducting a survey to see which of these classrooms contained existing technology, and comparing these results with a survey of classroom utilization for the fall and spring semesters.

Using this information, the committee recommended that the following rooms receive 46-inch Sharp TV monitors with Samsung DVD/VCR units.

| Classrooms Receiving 46" TV Monitors and DVD/VCR Units | |
|--|------------|
| Barnard 202 | Hume 200 |
| Bishop 324 | Hume 203 |
| Bishop 326 | Hume 215 |
| Bishop 333 | Hume 230 |
| Bondurant 206 | Isom 202 |
| Carrier 209 | Law School |

| | |
|------------------------|--------------------------|
| Conner 200 | Library - Rolling Stand |
| Coulter 201 | Library - Rolling Stand |
| Croft 204 | Longstreet 109 |
| Desoto Campus | Martindale - Admissions |
| Farley 10 | Meek 127 |
| Farley 124 | Music 157 |
| George Street House | Music 166 |
| Guyton 101 | Peabody 210 |
| Guyton - Rolling Stand | Pharmacy - Rolling Stand |
| Holman 230 | Provost Conference Room |
| Holman - Rolling Stand | Tupelo Campus |
| Hume 106 | Turner 113 |
| Hume 108 | Ventress 103 |
| Hume 112 | Ventress 201 |

Two additional monitors were held in storage to be used as spares in the event that a classroom monitor fails.

In an effort to make existing classroom technology more user-friendly, the committee continued to oversee the Rapid Response Team for Classroom Technology. This team, comprised of IT staff and student workers, provides a fast response to any problem an instructor may encounter in the enhanced classrooms.

Feedback from faculty who regularly use this classroom technology has been very positive, and there is much interest in continuing the program.

Blackboard

The Instructional Technology Standing Committee continues to provide valuable insight into the management and operation of Blackboard on the University of Mississippi campus. Blackboard is a Web-based, course management tool that has been in use by UM faculty for over eleven years.

The Blackboard servers were updated in December 2008 to provide greater system stability and more enhanced features for instructors. Among the new features are a smarter

Blackboard Grade Center and a Self and Peer Assessment Tool. With the new Grade Center, instructors can: enter scores much more efficiently, access audit and grade history changes, provide gradebook comments, freeze names for easier scrolling, upload multiple columns at once, build custom views, drop lowest scores, print progress reports, and easily email students right from the gradebook. The new self and peer assessment tools enable students to review and grade their own assessments and review work submitted by peers using specific criteria set forth by the instructor.

The committee also reviewed several new Blackboard building blocks this year. CourseFeed and Blackboard Sync both provide users a way to view their Blackboard course materials within Facebook. The committee chose to install the Blackboard Sync building block since it worked well and was supported directly through Blackboard, Inc. Another building block that the committee reviewed was the Learning Objects Campus Pack. This suite of software adds the ability to create blogs, wikis, podcasts, and ePortfolios within Blackboard. Since the University SACS committee has chosen to focus on enhancing student writing skills, this committee felt that providing the capability to journal (using blogs) and to create ePortfolios would be a step in the right direction. The committee recommended that we pursue funding to provide this software for our campus.

Clickers

Two years ago, the Instructional Technology Standing Committee investigated the use of Classroom Response Systems (also known as Clickers) and recommended that the campus sign a standardization agreement with Interwrite for the use of PRS RF clickers. As part of this agreement, instructors can receive a free RF receiver and clicker to use in their classes. The committee recommended that the FTDC continue to provide clicker training sessions throughout the year in an effort to introduce faculty to clickers and to provide more advanced training on the use of this technology. They will also continue to promote the

clicker user group, which was formed to provide a support system for interested faculty.

Other

Because the Information Technology staff were involved with setting up for the Presidential Debate in September, the committee agreed to postpone the annual Technology Enhancement Week, which is traditionally offered in September, to a later time.

The Provost's Office continued TACIT, the program to replace faculty desktops, for the tenth year. This year, the computers purchased for the Presidential Debate were redistributed to faculty as part of TACIT once the debate was over. The Instructional Technology Standing Committee provided advice and guidance on the implementation of the TACIT program by recommending that it be combined with Technology Enhancement Week, allowing both programs to take place simultaneously once the debate was over. This allowed TACIT participants to have a wider selection of training courses from which to choose.

The combined TACIT and Technology Enhancement Week were a success in October 2008 with the following workshops being well attended by UM faculty and staff: Adobe Acrobat; Advanced Clickers; Advanced Web Design Using Dreamweaver; Basic Web Design Using Dreamweaver; Basics of Adobe Photoshop; Breaking the WebMail Habit; Capturing and Editing Digital Video with iMovie and iDVD; Creating and Publishing Enhanced Podcasts; Creating Blackboard Tests, Assessments and Surveys; Faculty Test Scanning; Googling Google; Imaging and Scanning Basics; Introduction to Blackboard; Introduction to Mathematica; Introduction to PRS Clickers; Introduction to SAS; Introduction to Wimba; Keynote - An Alternative to PowerPoint for Mac Users; Making the Most of your Mac Operating System; Preview of the New Grade Center; Security Awareness Training; Using Blackboard to Create SafeAssignments to Detect Plagiarism; Using Multimedia Classrooms on the UM Campus; Virus Free

Computing; What's New in Excel 2007; What's New in PowerPoint 2007; and What's New in Word 2007.

Because of the success of these workshops, this committee recommended that the Faculty Technology Development Center (FTDC) continue to sponsor these workshops each year.